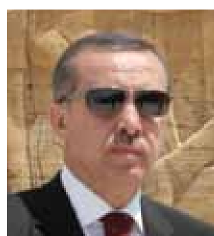






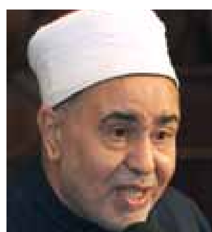
THE 500 MOST INFLUENTIAL MUSLIMS



2009

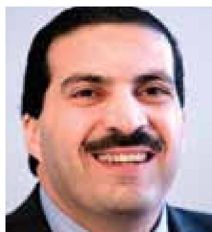
FIRST EDITION – 2009









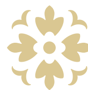








THE 500 MOST INFLUENTIAL MUSLIMS IN THE WORLD



2009

FIRST EDITION (1M) – 2009

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Szonja Ludvig, Adel Rayan, Mohammad Husni Naghawi and Mosaic Network, UK.

المملكة الأردنية الهاشمية
رقم الإيداع لدى دائرة المكتبة الوطنية
(٢٠٠٩/٩/٤٠٦٨)
يتحمل المؤلف كامل المسؤولية القانونية عن محتوى مصنفه و لا يعبّر هذا المصنف
عن رأي دائرة المكتبة الوطنية أو أي جهة حكومية أخرى .

ISBN 978-9957-428-37-2



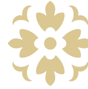
المركز الملكي للبحوث والدراسات الإسلامية (مبدأ)

THE ROYAL ISLAMIC STRATEGIC STUDIES CENTRE



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for Muslim-Christian Understanding
Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service
Georgetown University
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INTRODUCTION

The publication you have in your hands is the first of what we hope will be an annual series that provides a window into the movers and shakers of the Muslim world. We have strived to highlight people who are *influential as Muslims*, that is, people whose influence is derived from their practice of Islam or from the fact that they are Muslim. We think that this gives valuable insight into the different ways that Muslims impact the world, and also shows the diversity of how people are living as Muslims today.

Influence is a tricky concept. Its meaning derives from the Latin word *influens* meaning to flow-in, pointing to an old astrological idea that unseen forces (like the moon) affect humanity. The figures on this list have the ability to affect humanity too. In a variety of different ways each person on this list has influence over the lives of a large number of people on the earth. The 50 most influential figures are profiled. Their influence comes from a variety of sources; however they are unified by the fact that they each affect huge swathes of humanity.

We have then broken up the 500 leaders into 15 categories—Scholarly, Political, Administrative, Lineage, Preachers, Women, Youth, Philanthropy, Development, Science and Technology, Arts and Culture, Media, Radicals, International Islamic Networks, and Issues of the Day—to help you understand the different kinds of ways Islam and Muslims impact the world today.

Two composite lists show how influence works in different ways: International Islamic Networks shows people who are at the head of important transnational networks of Muslims, and Issues of the Day highlights individuals whose importance is due to current issues affecting humanity.

DISCLAIMER AND INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE

Being the first attempt of its kind at a list that shows the broad extent of Muslims' influence on the world we acknowledge that there are likely to be gaps in our categorizing, and are sure that we have missed some influential people. We would like to keep the process as open as possible and ask you to please write in suggestions to 500@rissc.jo

DEMOGRAPHY OF INFLUENCE

Influence in the Muslim world is particular to its context. There is not a clear hierarchy or organized clergy for Muslims to identify a leader, such as a Patriarch for Orthodox Christians or a Pope for Catholics. Islam as a religion is based on the individual's relationship with God, without an intermediary. Influence in the Muslim world is derived from two sources: scholarship, and respect and trust. Scholars are able to educate the masses or give respected opinions, and respected and trusted persons carry the weight of social and historical capital as leaders in their societies.

As you will see, three types of people—monarchs, religious scholars, and leaders of religious networks—dominate the Top 50 list. Monarchs are well represented because of the influence they gain from their political power, the length of time they spend in office, the lineage they derive from the institution of monarchy, and the deeply rooted establishments that they may inherit. Religious scholars are also strongly present in the list because they may be able to make religious rulings, and due to the simple fact that Muslims, of every hue, need figures from which they can source concrete answers to practical questions. In a globalized world, networks of people and of institutions permeate our international society and accordingly have great power because of their ability to affect people's lives, whether it be through funds or services. The Muslim world is no different and leaders of Islamic networks are represented in the top rungs of our list of 500.

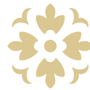
The one clear exception to this rule however is Amr Khaled who through sheer force of popularity and innovation—as the Muslim world's first televangelist—exerts tremendous influence as a Muslim. Khaled has been able to chart his own course as a key figure in the Muslim world through the vehicle of mass media, and although as a layperson his religious authority is still somewhat limited he remains the great 'start-up' of the list.

Another important exception is Fethullah Gülen, a preacher, thinker and educator, who having assumed the leadership of a religious movement started by Said Nursî (1878-1960) has gone on to become a global phenomenon in his own right. His popularity and authority in Turkey have been the driving force of the social movement that is widely thought to have brought around the social and eventually political changes of which politician Recep Tayyip Erdogan has been the ultimate heir—that is the enfranchisement of Muslim politics in Turkey.

Geography is also an important issue in terms of influence, with the Middle East and North America and Europe holding disproportionate influence in relation to the quantity of Muslims in these regions. It is important to clarify that individuals from the Middle East have a disproportionate influence in the

Muslim world, due to the fact that the region has many of the oldest and most well-esteemed institutions for Muslims, and most importantly is home to the holy sites in Mecca and Medina. Europe and North America are host to a large proportion of the world's most highly respected educational institutions and draw talented, influential people from around the world, with global outreach through their wealth and high academic standing. Many important international institutions are also based in Europe and North America, which adds to this asymmetry.

THE DIVERSITY OF ISLAM



I. THE HOUSE OF ISLAM

This section reprinted by permission of Vincenzo Oliveti © 2001
(with the exception of President Obama's speech)

The religion of Islam is based on belief in the One God (who in Arabic is called *Allah)*. It was founded by the Prophet Muhammad (570-632 CE) in the ancient cities of Mecca and Medina, in the west coast of the Arabian Peninsula (known as the *Hijaz)*. God revealed to the Prophet Muhammad the Holy Qur'an, the Sacred Book of Islam. The religion this created, however, was not a new message but simply a final and total Arabic restatement of God's messages to the Hebrew Prophets and to Jesus. The Holy Qur'an says:

> *Say ye: we believe in God and that which is revealed unto us and that which was revealed unto Abraham, and Ishmael, and Isaac, and Jacob, and the Tribes, and that which Moses and Jesus received, and that which the Prophets received from their Lord. We make no distinction between any of them, and unto Him we have submitted.* (The Holy Qur'an, 2:136)

Moreover, the Holy Qur'an did not even exclude the possibility of revelations other than those that were given to the Prophets mentioned in the Bible (and thus did not exclude the possibility of other genuine ancient religions other than Judaism, Christianity and Islam). God says, in the Holy Qur'an:

> *Verily we have sent Messengers before thee [O Muhammad]. About some of them have we told thee, and about some have we not told thee . . . (40:78).*

> *And verily we have raised in every nation a Messenger [proclaiming]: serve God and shun false gods . . . (16:36).*

THE ESSENCE OF ISLAM

The essence and substance of Islam can be easily summed up by three major principles (which are also successive stages in the spiritual life): *Islam* (meaning 'submission to God's will'); *Iman* (meaning 'faith in God'), and *Ihsan* (meaning 'virtue through constant regard to, and awareness of, God'). The second Caliph, the great 'Umar ibn al Khattab, related that:

> *One day when we were sitting [in Medina] with the Messenger of God [the Prophet Muhammad] there came unto us a man whose clothes were of*

exceeding whiteness and whose hair was of exceeding blackness, nor were there any signs of travel upon him, although none of us knew him. He sat down knee upon knee opposite the Prophet, upon whose thighs he placed the palms of his hands, saying: 'O Muhammad; tell me what is the surrender (Islam)'. *The Messenger of God answered him saying: 'The surrender is to testify that there is no god but God and that Muhammad is God's Messenger, to perform the prayer, bestow the alms, fast Ramadan and make if thou canst, the pilgrimage to the Holy House.' He said, 'Thou hast spoken truly,' and we were amazed that having questioned him he should corroborate him. Then he said: 'Tell me what is faith* (Iman)'. *He answered: 'To believe in God and His Angels and his Books and His Messengers and the Last Day [the Day of Judgement], and to believe that no good or evil cometh but by His Providence.' 'Thou hast spoken truly,' he said, and then: 'Tell me what is excellence* (Ihsan).' *He answered: 'To worship God as* if *thou sawest Him, for if Thou seest Him not, yet seeth He thee.' 'Thou hast spoken truly,' he said...Then the stranger went away, and I stayed a while after he had gone; and the Prophet said to me: 'O 'Umar, knowest thou the questioner, who he was?' I said, 'God and His Messenger know best.' He said, 'It was Gabriel [the Archangel]. He came unto you to teach you your religion.'*'[1]

Thus *Islam* as such consists of 'five pillars': (1) the *Shahadatayn* or the 'testimony of faith' (whose inward meaning is the acknowledgement of God). (2) The five daily prayers (whose inward meaning is the attachment to God). (3) Giving alms or *Zakat*—one-fortieth of one's income and savings annually to the poor and destitute (whose inward meaning is the detachment from the world). (4) Fasting the Holy month of *Ramadan* annually (whose inward meaning is detachment from the body and from the ego). (5) Making the *Hajj* (whose inner meaning is to return to one's true inner heart, the mysterious square, black-shrouded Ka'ba in Mecca being the outward symbol of this heart). Thus also *Iman* as such consists of belief in all the essential doctrines of religion (and the inner meaning of this is that one should not go through the motions of religion and of the five pillars of Islam blindly or robotically, but rather have real faith and certainty in one's heart). Thus, finally, *Ihsan* as such consists in believing that God always sees us, and therefore that one must be virtuous and sincere in all one's actions. In this connection the Prophet said: *'By Him in whose Hand is my Life, none of you believes till he loves for his neighbour what he loves for himself '.*[2] In summary, we could say that the essence of Islam is exactly the Two Commandments upon which Jesus said hangs *all the Law and the Prophets:*

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1 *Sahih Muslim,* 'Kitab al Iman', 1, N.I. (The *Hadiths* of the Prophet, like all sacred texts, are written above in italics).

2 *Sahih Muslim*, 'Kitab al Iman', 18, n. 72.

And Jesus answered him, The first of all commandments is...the Lord our God is one Lord; And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy understanding, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second commandment is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.[3]

THE CANON OF ISLAM

Islam does not, like Christianity, have a clergy. There is no temporal or even spiritual institute that holds it together or unifies it. So how did it hold together—and indeed, flourish—for the last fourteen centuries approximately, when its scholars and temporal policymakers keep changing and dying out over time? How did it remain so homogeneous that the Islam of 1900 CE was doctrinally exactly the same as the Islam of 700 CE? Where did its internal checks and balances come from?

The answer is that Islam has a traditional canon:[4] a collection of sacred texts which everyone has agreed are authoritative and definitive, and which 'fix' the *principles* of belief, practice, law, theology and doctrine throughout the ages. All that Muslim scholars (called *ulema* and *muftis* or *sheikhs* and *imams)* have left to do is to interpret these texts and work out their practical applications and details (and the principles of interpretation and elaboration are themselves 'fixed' by these texts), so that in Islam a person is only considered learned to the extent that he can demonstrate his knowledge of these texts. This does not mean that Islam is a religion of limitations for these texts are a vast ocean and their principles can be inwardly worked out almost infinitely in practice. It does mean, however, that Islam is 'fixed' and has certain limits beyond which it will not go. This *is an extremely important concept to understand,* because misunderstanding it, and setting aside the traditional canon of Islam, leads to people killing and assassinating others in the name of religion. The traditional canon of Islam is what protects not just the religion of Islam itself, but the world (including Muslims themselves) from terrorism, murder and oppression in the name of Islam. The canon is Islam's internal check and balance system; it is what safeguards its moderation; it is 'self-censorship' and its ultimate safety feature.

To be more specific, the traditional Sunni Islamic Canon starts with the Qur'an itself; then the great traditional Commentaries upon it (e.g. Tabari; Razi; Zamakhshari/Baydawi; Qurtubi; Jalalayn; Ibn Kathir; Nasafi; and al Wahidi's

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3 The Gospel according to Mark 12:29 –31. (See also Deuteronomy 6:5; and Matthew 22:37- 40).
4 Even the English word 'canon' comes from the Arabic word *kanun* meaning 'law' or 'principle' .

Asbab al Nuzul); then the eight traditional collections of *Hadith,* the sayings of the Prophet, (e.g. Muslim; Bukhari; Tirmidhi; Ibn Hanbal, al Nasa'i; al Sijistani; al Darimi and Ibn Maja); the later *Muhaddithin,* or Traditionists (e.g. Bayhaqi; Baghawi; Nawawi and 'Asqalani); then the traditional biographical and historical works of *Sira* (Ibn Ishaq, Ibn Sa'd, Waqidi; Azraqi; Tabari; and Suhayli); the *Risala* of al Shafi'i: the *Muwatta'* of Imam Malik; the *Ihya' 'Ulum al Din* of Ghazali; Ash'arite and Maturidian theology; the (original) *'Aqida* of Tahawi; Imam Jazuli's *Dala'il al Khayrat,* and finally—albeit only extrinsically—*Jahiliyya* poetry (as a background reference for the semantic connotations of words in the Arabic language). We give a specific (but not exhaustive) list here in order to minimize the possibility of misunderstanding.

ISLAM IN HISTORY

It is evidently not possible to do justice to the role of Islam in world history, thought and civilization in a few words, but the following paragraph by Britain's Prince Charles attempts it:

> The medieval Islamic world, from Central Asia to the shores of the Atlantic, was a world where scholars and men of learning flourished. But because we have tended to see Islam as the enemy, as an alien culture, society, and system of belief, we have tended to ignore or erase its great relevance to our own history. For example, we have underestimated the importance of eight hundred years of Islamic society and culture in Spain between the 8th and 15th centuries. The contribution of Muslim Spain to the preservation of classical learning during the Dark Ages, and to the first flowerings of the Renaissance, has long been recognized. But Islamic Spain was much more then a mere larder where Hellenistic knowledge was kept for later consumption by the emerging modern Western world. Not only did Muslim Spain gather and preserve the intellectual content of ancient Greek and Roman civilization, it also interpreted and expanded upon that civilization, and made a vital contribution of its own in so many fields of human endeavour—in science, astronomy, mathematics, algebra (it self an Arabic word), law, history, medicine, pharmacology, optics, agriculture, architecture, theology, music. Averroes [Ibn Rushd] and Avenzoor [Ibn Zuhr], like their counterparts Avicenna [Ibn Sina] and Rhazes [Abu Bakr al Razi] in the East, contributed to the study and practice of medicine in ways from which Europe benefited for centuries afterwards. [5]

5 H.R.H the Prince of Wales, 'Islam and the West', a lecture given at the Sheldonian Theatre, Oxford on October 27th, 1993, pp.17-18.

On 4 June, 2009, US President Barack Obama said the following at Cairo University:

> As a student of history, I also know civilization's debt to Islam. It was Islam—at places like Al Azhar—that carried the light of learning through so many centuries, paving the way for Europe's Renaissance and Enlightenment. It was innovation in Muslim communities that developed the order of algebra; our magnetic compass and tools of navigation; our mastery of pens and printing; our understanding of how disease spreads and how it can be healed. Islamic culture has given us majestic arches and soaring spires; timeless poetry and cherished music; elegant calligraphy and places of peaceful contemplation. And throughout history, Islam has demonstrated through words and deeds the possibilities of religious tolerance and racial equality.
>
> I also know that Islam has always been a part of America's story. The first nation to recognize my country was Morocco. In signing the Treaty of Tripoli in 1796, our second President, John Adams, wrote, 'The United States has in itself no character of enmity against the laws, religion or tranquility of Muslims.' And since our founding, American Muslims have enriched the United States. They have fought in our wars, they have served in our government, they have stood for civil rights, they have started businesses, they have taught at our universities, they've excelled in our sports arenas, they've won Nobel Prizes, built our tallest building, and lit the Olympic Torch. And when the first Muslim American was recently elected to Congress, he took the oath to defend our Constitution using the same Holy Koran that one of our Founding Fathers—Thomas Jefferson—kept in his personal library.[6]

6 Barack Obama's speech in Cairo, 'Remarks by the President on a New Beginning' June 4, 2009.

II. MAJOR DOCTRINAL DIVISIONS WITHIN ISLAM

MAJOR DOCTRINAL DIVISIONS IN SUNNI ISLAM

1) Ash'ari and Maturidi Schools: Sunni Orthodoxy[1]

These two schools of doctrine are followed by the bulk of Sunni Muslims and differ only in minor details.

Ash'ari School: This school is named after the followers of the 9th century scholar **Abu al Hasan al Ash'ari** (874-936 CE) and is widely accepted throughout the Sunni Muslim world. They believe that the characteristics of God are ultimately beyond human comprehension, and trust in the Revelation is essential, although the use of rationality is important.

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1 Orthodoxy in Islam is based on verse 2:285 of the Holy Qur'an, and has been best defined by the historical 2005 international Islamic consensus on the 'three points' of the Amman Message (see: www.ammanmessage.com), these points being:

(a) Whosoever is an adherent to one of the four *Sunni* schools (*Mathahib*) of Islamic jurisprudence (*Hanafi, Maliki, Shafi'i* and *Hanbali*), the two *Shi'a* schools of Islamic jurisprudence (*Ja'fari* and *Zaydi*), the *Ibadi* school of Islamic jurisprudence and the *Thahiri* school of Islamic jurisprudence, is a Muslim. Declaring that person an apostate is impossible and impermissible. Verily his (or her) blood, honour, and property are inviolable. Moreover, in accordance with the Sheikh Al Azhar's *fatwa*, it is neither possible nor permissible to declare whosoever subscribes to the *Ash'ari* creed or whoever practices real *Tasawwuf* (Sufism) an apostate. Likewise, it is neither possible nor permissible to declare whosoever subscribes to true *Salafi* thought an apostate.

Equally, it is neither possible nor permissible to declare as apostates any group of Muslims who believes in God, Glorified and Exalted be He, and His Messenger (may peace and blessings be upon him) and the pillars of faith, and acknowledges the five pillars of Islam, and does not deny any necessarily self-evident tenet of religion.

(b) There exists more in common between the various schools of Islamic jurisprudence than there is difference between them. The adherents to the eight schools of Islamic jurisprudence are in agreement as regards the basic principles of Islam. All believe in Allah (God), Glorified and Exalted be He, the One and the Unique; that the Noble Qur'an is the Revealed Word of God; and that our master Muhammad, may blessings and peace be upon him, is a Prophet and Messenger unto all mankind. All are in agreement about the five pillars of Islam: the two testaments of faith (*shahadatayn*); the ritual prayer (*salat*); almsgiving (*zakat*); fasting the month of Ramadan (*sawm*), and the *Hajj* to the sacred house of God (in Mecca). All are also in agreement about the foundations of belief: belief in Allah (God), His angels, His scriptures, His messengers, and in the Day of Judgment, in Divine Providence in good and in evil. Disagreements between the *ulema* (scholars) of the eight schools of Islamic jurisprudence are only with respect to the ancillary branches of religion (*furu'*) and not as regards the principles and fundamentals (*usul*) [of the religion of Islam]. Disagreement with respect to the ancillary branches of religion (*furu'*) is a mercy. Long ago it was said that variance in opinion among the *ulema* (scholars) 'is a good affair'.

(c) Acknowledgement of the schools of Islamic jurisprudence (*Mathahib*) within Islam means adhering to a fundamental methodology in the issuance of *fatwa*s: no one may issue a *fatwa* without the requisite personal qualifications which each school of Islamic jurisprudence determines [for its own adherents]. No one may issue a *fatwa* without adhering to the methodology of the schools of Islamic jurisprudence. No one may claim to do unlimited *Ijtihad* and create a new school of Islamic jurisprudence or to issue unacceptable *fatwa*s that take Muslims out of the principles and certainties of the *sharia* and what has been established in respect of its schools of jurisprudence.

Maturidi School: This school is named after the followers of the 9th century scholar **Muhammad Abu Mansur al Maturidi** (853-944 CE) and has a wide following in regions where Hanafi law is practiced. They have a slightly more pronounced reliance on human reason.

2) Salafi School

This school was developed around the doctrines of 18th century scholar **Muhammad ibn Abd al Wahhab** (1703-1792 CE). Salafis have specific doctrinal beliefs, owing to their particular interpretation of Islam, that differentiate them from the majority of Sunnis, such as a literal anthropomorphic interpretation of God. Salafis place a great emphasis on literal interpretation of the Qur'an and *Hadith*, with skepticism towards the role of human reason in theology.

3) Mu'tazili School

This school was developed between the 8th and 10th centuries. Although it is traced back to **Wasil ibn Ata** (d. 748 CE) in Basra, theologians **Abu al Hudhayl al 'Allaf** (d. 849 CE) and **Bishr ibn al Mu'tamir** (d. 825 CE) are credited with formalizing its theological stance. Mu'tazili thought relies heavily on logic, including Greek philosophy. Although it no longer has a significant following, a small minority of contemporary intellectuals have sought to revive it. Mutazilites believe that the Qur'an was created as opposed to the Orthodox Sunni view that it is eternal and uncreated. Moreover they advocate using rationalism to understand allegorical readings of the Qur'an.

II. MAJOR DOCTRINAL DIVISIONS WITHIN ISLAM (CONTINUED)

IBADI SCHOOL

Ibadis believe that God created the Qur'an at a certain point in time, and that God will not be seen on the Day of Judgment. They also believe in the eternal nature of hell for all those who enter it.

MAJOR SHI'A THEOLOGICAL POSITIONS

1) The Twelver School

The infallibility (*'Ismah*) of the Twelve Imams descended from the family of the Prophet (*Ahl al Bayt*) who are believed to be the spiritual and rightful political authorities of the Muslim community (*Umma*). The twelfth Imam, the Mahdi, is believed to be in occultation to return in the future.

2) Isma'ili School

The Qur'an and *Hadith* are said to have truths lying with a single living Imam, descended directly from the Prophet. Also known as 'seveners' for their belief that Isma'il ibn Ja'far was the seventh and final leading-Imam of the Muslim community.

3) Zaidi School

The infallibility of the Twelve Imams and the notion of occultation are rejected in favor of accepting the leadership of a living Imam. The Imamate can be held by any descendant of the Prophet (*Sayyid*). Also known as 'fivers' for their belief that Zayd ibn Ali was the fifth and final leading-Imam of the Muslim community.

III. IDEOLOGICAL DIVISIONS

TRADITIONAL ISLAM (96% OF THE WORLD'S MUSLIMS)	ISLAMIC MODERNISM (1% OF THE WORLD'S MUSLIMS)	ISLAMIC FUNDAMENTALISM (3% OF THE WORLD'S MUSLIMS)
Also known as Orthodox Islam, this ideology is not politicized and largely based on consensus of correct opinion—thus including the Sunni, Shi'a, and Ibadi branches of practice (and their subgroups) within the fold of Islam, and not groups such as the Druze or the Ahmadiyya, among others.	Emerging from 19th century Ottoman Turkey and Egypt, this subdivision contextualized Islamic ideology for the times—emphasizing the need for religion to evolve with Western advances.	This is a highly politicized religious ideology popularized in the 20th century through movements within both the Shi'a and Sunni branches of Islam—characterized by aggressiveness and a reformist attitude toward traditional Islam.

IIIa. TRADITIONAL ISLAM

SUNNI (90% OF THE WORLD'S TRADITIONAL MUSLIMS)

The largest denomination of Muslims referred to as *Ahl as Sunnah wa'l Jama'h* or 'people of the prophetic tradition and community'—with emphasis on emulating the life of the last Prophet, Muhammad.

SCHOOLS OF ISLAMIC LAW

Hanafi (45.5%)	**Shafi'i (28%)**	**Maliki (15%)**	**Hanbali (2%)**
Named after the followers of **Imam Abu Hanifa** (699-767 CE/ 89-157 AH) in Iraq.	Named after the followers of **Imam al Shafi'i** (767-820 CE/ 150-204 AH) in Medina.	Named after the followers of **Imam Malik** (711-795 CE/ 93-179 AH) in Medina.	Named after the followers of **Imam Ahmad bin Hanbal** (780 -855 CE/ 164-241 AH) in Iraq.

IIIa. TRADITIONAL ISLAM (CONTINUED)

IBADI (0.5% OF THE WORLD'S TRADITIONAL MUSLIMS)

The Ibadi school has origins in and is linked to the Kharijites, but the modern day community is distinct from the 7th century Islamic sect. It was founded after the death of Prophet Muhammad and is currently practiced by a majority of Oman's Muslim population. Also found across parts of Africa.

SHI'A (9.5% OF THE WORLD'S TRADITIONAL MUSLIMS)

The second-largest denomination of Muslims referred to as *Shi'atu 'Ali* or 'the party of 'Ali,' the fourth caliph of Islam and first Imam in Shi'ism.

BRANCHES

Twelvers (8%)
Named after the followers of **Imam Ja'far al Sadiq** (702-765 CE/ 83-148 AH) in Medina.

Isma'ilis (Seveners) (Less than 0.5%)
Named after the followers of **Muhammad ibn Ismail** (746-809 CE/128-193 AH) in Medina.

Zaidis (Fivers) (Less than 1%)
Named after the followers of **Imam Zaid ibn 'Ali** (695-740 CE) in Medina.

SCHOOLS OF ISLAMIC LAW

Usuli
99% of Twelvers. This dominant school favors the use of *ijtihad*, independent legal reasoning, with an emphasis on four accepted collections of *Hadith*. Derive legal opinions from living *ayatollahs*, or *mujtahids*, whose rulings become obligatory. *Taqlid*, the practice of following rulings without questioning the religious authority, is a core tenet of this school. The name Usuli is derived from the Arabic term *usul* meaning 'principle'.

Akhbari
Akhbaris reject the use of *ijtihad* or reasoning, and do not follow *marjas* who practice *ijtihad*. They also prohibit exegesis of the Qur'an. Derive legal rulings from the Qur'an, *Hadith*, and consensus. The name Akhbari is derived from the Arabic term *akhbar* meaning 'traditions'. They can trace their roots to the followers of **Muhammad Amin Astarabadi** (d. 1627 CE). Akhbaris continue to exist to this day, although in small, concentrated pockets, particularly around Basra, Iraq.

IIIa. TRADITIONAL ISLAM (CONTINUED)

MYSTIC BROTHERHOODS

Although reliable statistics are not available for the millions of Muslims who practice Islamic mysticism, it has been estimated that 25% of adult Sunni Muslims in 1900 CE participated in these brotherhoods as either *murids* (followers of the Sufi guide of a particular order) or *mutabarrikin* (supporters or affiliates of a particular Sufi order).

Sunni Orders

Naqshbandiyyah
Founded by **Baha al Din Naqshband** (d. 1389 CE) in Bukhara, modern day Uzbekistan. **Influence:** popular from China to North Africa, Europe and America.

Qadiriyyah
Founded by Persian scholar and saint **'Abd al Qadir al Jilani** (1077-1166 CE) in Baghdad, Iraq. **Influence:** stretches from Morocco to Malaysia, from Central Asia to South Africa.

Tijaniyyah
Founded by the Algerian saint **Ahmad al Tijani** (d. 1815 CE) who settled and taught in Fez, Morocco. **Influence:** major spiritual and religious role in Senegal, Nigeria, Mauritania and much of Sub-Saharan Africa.

Shadiliyyah
Founded by the Moroccan saint **Abu'l-Hassan al Shadili** (d. 1258 CE). **Influence:** most influential in North Africa and Egypt.

Rifa'iyyah
Founded by **Ahmad ibn 'Ali al Rifa'i** (d. 1182 CE) in southern Iraq. **Influence:** widely practiced across the Muslim world with a strong presence in Egypt.

Suhrawardiyyah
Founded by Persian scholar **Abu Najib Suhrawardi** (d. 1168 CE) in Iraq. **Influence:** a strong presence in India.

Kubrawiyyah
Founded by **Najm al Din Kubra** (d. 1221 CE) from Khawarzm, modern day Uzbekistan. **Influence:** mostly present across Central Asia.

Shiʿa Orders

Irfan
Irfan, which means 'knowing' in Arabic and 'most beautiful and knowledgeable person' in Pashto, is Shiʿa mysticism. **Mulla Sadr al Din Muhammad Shirazi** (1571-1636 CE) from Iran is considered a leading theorist of *Irfan* in Shiʿa Islam.

Mawlawiyyah
A Turkish order founded by the Persian saint and poet **Jalal al Din Rumi** (d. 1273 CE). **Influence:** mainly in Turkey.

Chishtiyyah
Founded by the Persian saint **Mu'in al Din Chishti** (d. 1236 CE) Khurasan. **Influence:** highly influential in India.

Khalwatiyyah
A Turkish order founded by the Persian saint **'Umar al Khalwati** (d. 1397 CE). **Influence:** wide presence in the Balkans, Syria, Lebanon and North Africa.

Yashrutiyyah
Founded by **'Ali Nur al Din al Yashruti** (d. 1892 CE) in Palestine. **Influence:** strong presence in Syria and Lebanon.

Badawiyyah
An Egyptian order founded by the Moroccan saint **Ahmad al Badawi** (d. 1276 CE), considered by many as the patron saint of Egypt. **Influence:** active role in Egypt and the Sudan.

IIIb. ISLAMIC FUNDAMENTALISM

SUNNI

MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD

The Muslim Brotherhood, or *Al Ikhwan Al Muslimeen* is a transnational Sunni movement, with no particular ideological adherence. It is the largest political opposition organization in many Arab states, particularly in Egypt where it was founded in opposition to colonial rule by **Hassan al Banna** in 1928.
Al Banna originally sought to revive Muslim culture from its position of exploitation under colonial rule, through charitable and educational work, to bring Islam into a central role in people's life. Sayyid Qutb (1906-1966 CE) was also a leading member of the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood in the 50s and 60s.

WAHHABISM/SALAFISM

Wahhabism/Salafism are terms used interchangeably to refer to a particular brand of Islam. Salaf, meaning predecessors, refers to the very early practice of Islam by Muhammad and his immediate successors. Salafism seeks to revive the practice of Islam as it was at the time of Muhammad and can be critical of too much emphasis being placed on thinkers from after this period. **Muhammad ibn ʻAbd al Wahhab** (1703-1792 CE) was an important figure in the resurrection of this ideology therefore Salafism is often simply known as Wahhabism.

SHIʻA

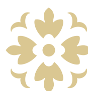
REVOLUTIONARY SHI'ISM

Revolutionary Shi'ism is an ideology, based on the teachings of the late **Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini** (1902-1989 CE), which shares many similarities with Marxist revolutionary thought. Khomeini believed that the only way to secure independence from colonial or imperial forces was through the creation of a Shiʻa state, under the idea of *Velayat-e Faqih* (Guardianship of the Jurist). This means that all politics is subject to the opinion of the Supreme Leader who is responsible for the continued success of the revolution. It is only practiced in Iran.

IIIc. ISLAMIC MODERNISM

Islamic modernism is a reform movement started by politically-minded urbanites with scant knowledge of traditional Islam. These people had witnessed and studied Western technology and socio-political ideas, and realized that the Islamic world was being left behind technologically by the West and had become too weak to stand up to it. They blamed this weakness on what they saw as 'traditional Islam,' which they thought held them back and was not 'progressive' enough. They thus called for a complete overhaul of Islam, including—or rather in particular—Islamic law (*sharia*) and doctrine (*aqida*). Islamic modernism remains popularly an object of derision and ridicule, and is scorned by traditional Muslims and fundamentalists alike.

THE TOP 50



1. His Majesty King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud, King of Saudi Arabia, Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques
2. His Eminence Grand Ayatollah Hajj Sayyid Ali Khamenei, Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran
3. His Majesty King Mohammed VI, King of Morocco
4. His Majesty King Abdullah II bin Al Hussein, King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
5. His Excellency Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey
6. His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Sa'id al Sa'id, Sultan of Oman
7. His Eminence Grand Ayatollah Sayyid Ali Hussein Sistani, Marja of the Hawza, Najaf
8. His Eminence Sheikh Al Azhar Dr Muhammad Sayyid Tantawi, Grand Sheikh of the Al Azhar University, Grand Imam of Al Azhar Mosque
9. Sheikh Dr Yusuf Qaradawi, Head of the International Union of Muslim Scholars
10. His Eminence Sheikh Dr Ali Goma'a, Grand Mufti of the Arab Republic of Egypt
11. His Eminence Sheikh Abdul Aziz Ibn Abdullah Aal al Sheikh, Grand Mufti of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
12. Mohammad Mahdi Akef, Supreme Guide of the Muslim Brotherhood

13. Hodjaefendi Fethullah Güllen, Turkish Muslim Preacher
14. Amr Khaled, Preacher and Social Activist
15. Hajji Mohammed Abd al Wahhab, Ameer of the Tablighi Jamaat, Pakistan
16. His Royal Eminence Amirul Mu'minin Sheikh as Sultan Muhammadu Sa'adu Abubakar III, Sultan of Sokoto
17. Seyyed Hasan Nasrallah, Secretary General of Hezbollah
18. Dr KH Achmad Hasyim Muzadi, Chairman of Nahdlatul Ulama, Indonesia
19. Sheikh Salman al Ouda, Saudi Scholar and Educator
20. His Highness Shah Karim al Hussayni, The Aga Khan IV, 49th Imam of the Ismaili Muslims
21. His Highness Emir Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al Maktoum, Ruler of Dubai, Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates
22. His Highness General Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces
23. Sheikh Dr M Sa'id Ramadan al Bouti, Leading Islamic Scholar in Syria
24. His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam
25. His Eminence Professor Dr Sheikh Ahmad Muhammad al Tayeb, President of Al Azhar University
26. His Eminence Mohammad bin Mohammad al Mansour, Imam of the Zaidi Sect of Shi‘a Muslims
27. His Eminence Justice Sheikh Muhammad Taqi Usmani, Leading Scholar of Islamic Jurisprudence, Pakistan
28. His Excellency President Abdullah Gül, President of the Republic of Turkey
29. Sheikh Mohammad Ali al Sabouni, Scholar of *Tafsir*
30. His Eminence Sheikh Abdullah Bin Bayyah, Deputy-Head of the International Union of Muslim Scholars
31. Her Eminence Sheikha Munira Qubeysi, Leader of the Qubeysi Movement

32. His Eminence Sheikh Ahmad Tijani Ali Cisse, Leader of Tijaniyya Sufi Order
33. Sheikh al Habib Umar bin Hafiz, Director of Dar al Mustafa, Tarim, Yemen
34. Khaled Mashaal, Leader of Hamas
35. Professor Dr M Din Syamsuddin, Chairman of Muhammadiyya, Indonesia
36. Maulana Mahmood Madani, Secretary General of Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind, India
37. Sheikh Habib Ali Zain al Abideen al Jifri, Director General of the Tabah Foundation, UAE
38. Sheikh Hamza Yusuf Hanson, Founder of Zaytuna Institute, USA
39. His Eminence Sheikh Professor Dr Mustafa Ceric, Grand Mufti of Bosnia and Herzegovina
40. His Excellency Professor Dr Ekmelledin Ihsanoglu, Secretary General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference
41. General Mohammad Ali Jafari, Commander of the Revolutionary Guard, Iran
42. Dato' Haji Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat, Religious Guide of the Islamic Party of Malaysia
43. Motiur Rahman Nizami, Ameer of the Jamaat-e-Islami, Bangladesh
44. Professor Sayid Ameen Mian Qaudri, Barelwi Leader and Spiritual Guide
45. His Holiness Dr Syedna Mohammad Burhannuddin Saheb, 52nd Da'i l-Mutlaq of the Dawoodi Bohras
46. Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan, Pakistani Nuclear Scientist
47. Professor Dr Seyyed Hossein Nasr, Islamic Philosopher
48. Abdullah 'Aa Gym' Gymnastiar, Indonesian Preacher
49. Sheikh Mehmet Nazim Adil al Qubrusi al Haqqani, Leader of Naqshbandi-Haqqani Sufi Order
50. His Excellency Dr Abd al Aziz bin Uthman Altwaijiri, Secretary General of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

1

HIS MAJESTY KING ABDULLAH BIN ‘ABD AL ‘AZIZ AL SAUD

King of Saudi Arabia, Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques

Country: Saudi Arabia
Date of Birth: 1 August 1924
Source of Influence: Political, Administrative, Lineage
Influence: 25.3 million Saudis, 2.4 million Hajj pilgrims, over 3 million Umrah pilgrims in 2008
School of Thought: Moderate Salafi

King Abdullah bin 'Abd al 'Aziz al Saud of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques is the most influential Muslim in the world. Saudi Arabia is geopolitically important as the most powerful Arab nation in the region. He also garners influence globally for Saudi Arabia’s international role as an exporter of crude oil and refined petroleum products.

Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques
King Abdullah has significant influence in the global Muslim community through his custodianship of the two holy sites of Mecca and Medina. Mecca is the main pilgrimage site for 1.5 billion Muslims—of which 2.4 million fulfill their religious obligation annually.

Controls World's Largest Oil Reserves
King Abdullah reigns over a land of massive crude oil reserves—Saudi Arabia has approximately 25% of the world's proven oil reserves—making him a key player in the global petroleum industry.

Controls Largest Da'wa Network
He is also head of the most extensive *da'wa* network of missionary Muslims in the world, promoting the Salafi brand of Islam. Salafism is historically rooted in Saudi Arabia, and owes its global spread to financial backing from the Saudi Royal Family.

Reformer
King Abdullah has proven his domestic influence in Saudi Arabia through his ability to enact multiple landmark reforms to fight corruption, balance the Saudi budget, tailor the education system, address women's and minority rights, engage in interreligious diplomacy as well as tackle problems in the justice system. He has:

- Appended the Baya Council, a 38-man family council to legitimize the process of choosing successors to the throne.
- Cleaned up corruption in the Royal Family.
- Increased the representation of minorities in Saudi governance including increased Shi‘a representation in the Shura Council.
- He increasingly gives women a voice and increased their social participation.
- Took educational administration out of the hands of religious leaders and gave authority instead to the educational establishment.
- Presented a $10 billion endowment for the King Abdullah University of Science and Technology.
- Systematically replaced hard-line Salafi judges with moderate leaders in the Saudi court system. Employed personal interventions within the justice system—in particular regard to marriages.



- Cut the funding power of the morality police.
- Convened a global interfaith summit in 2008 and subsequently issued the *Madrid Declaration,* which calls for tolerance between religions and a culture of peace.
- The first Saudi monarch in 51 years to address the UN General Assembly and the first reigning Saudi monarch to have met with a pope, Pope Benedict XVI in November 2007.
- Donated $50 million in cash and $10 million-worth of relief materials for the 2008 Sichuan Earthquake in China and pledged a $1 billion donation towards the reconstruction of the Palestinian coastal territory during the Israeli war on Gaza.

2
HIS EMINENCE GRAND AYATOLLAH HAJJ SAYYID ALI KHAMENEI
Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Country: Iran
Date of Birth: 17 July 1939
Source of Influence: Political, Administrative
Influence: Supreme Leader of 72 million Iranians
School of Thought: Traditional Twelver Shi'a, Revolutionary Shi'ism

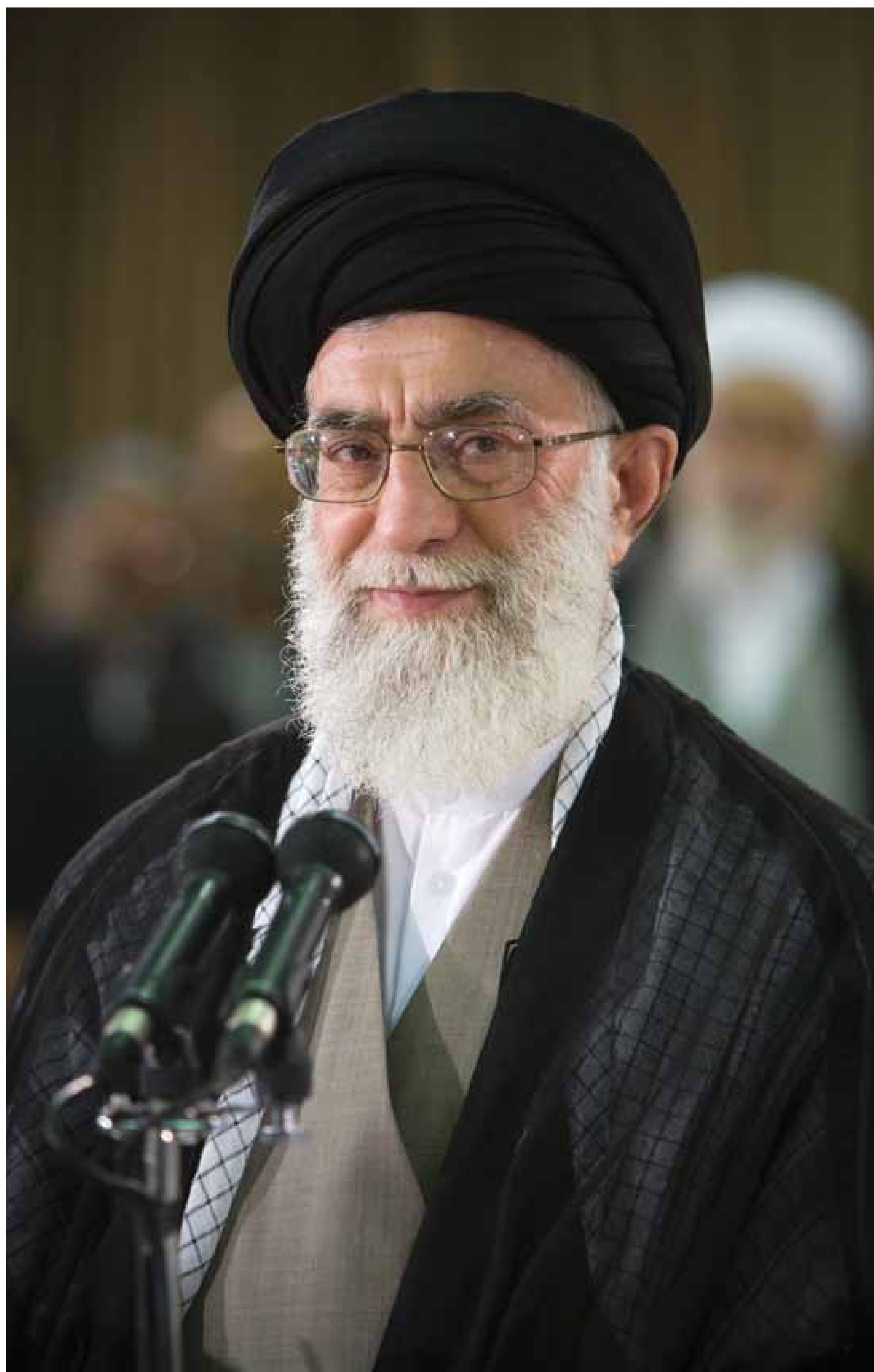
Grand Ayatollah Khamenei is the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He was born in Mashhad in the far north east of Iran, and studied in the leading Iranian religious seminary in Qom, before becoming involved in the struggle with the Pahlavi Regime in the sixties and seventies.

Supreme Leader, *Velayat-e Faqih*

Khameini's current influence stems from his powerful position as a religious leader, which gives him a unique role in political affairs. His job is to enact the *Velayat-e Faqih*—the guardianship of the jurist. In real terms this means a system where scholars of *fiqh* (Islamic jurisprudence) have a controlling say in the political affairs of the state. The rule of the jurist was a concept created by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, based on ideas that have run through Iranian political history since the time of Shah Ismail—who was the first to make Shi'a Islam the national religion of Iran. It was conceived in a battle against oppression as a way of safeguarding the Iranian nation from tyranny, giving the final say in all matters to a group of religious scholars, the Council of Guardians. This Council is headed by a chief arbitrator—the Supreme Leader.

Leader of Shi'a Revolution

Khamenei gains much of his influence in Iran from his role as a leader of the Islamic Revolution. The Islamic Republic of Iran was forged out of the 1979 Iranian Revolution. Combating what many saw as the tyrannical rule of the Shah, Khamenei joined the Society of Combatant Clergy that staged demonstrations mobilizing many of the protests leading to the Shah's overthrow. After the revolution in 1979 he was one of the founding members of the Islamic Republic Party, and a member of the assembly of experts that was responsible for drafting Iran's new constitution.



3

HIS MAJESTY KING MOHAMMED VI

King of Morocco

Country: Morocco
Date of Birth: 21 August 1963
Source of Influence: Political, Administrative, Development
Influence: 31.6 million Moroccans
School of Thought: Traditional Sunni, Maliki

Known as *Amir al Mu'minin*, or Commander of the Faithful, King Mohammad VI of Morocco is lauded for his domestic reform policies and pioneering efforts in modernizing Morocco and countering terrorism. He tackles issues of poverty, vulnerability and social exclusion at home, and has improved relations with countries abroad. He is an influential leader, mainly due to his position as the only legitimate contender for the Islamic Caliphate, for his control of the network of Muslims following the Maliki school of Islamic jurisprudence, and as a leading monarch in Africa.

Contender for the Caliphate
King Mohammad VI's lineage makes him the only legitimate contender for the Islamic Caliphate, as successor to a 350 year-old dynasty. The Alaouite Dynasty links back to the Prophet Muhammad. He possesses the only authentic claim to an Islamic Caliphate, if one were to be established. Indeed, the Moroccans never recognized the Ottoman Caliphate on the grounds that the Ottomans were not descended from the Prophet Muhammad.

Control of Maliki Network
King Mohammad VI also leads the oldest Islamic establishment of Maliki Muslims. The Maliki *madhab* is the third largest school of jurisprudence in Islam. This school bases its rulings on the Qur'an and *Hadith* but also predominantly derives its practices from the work of Malik ibn Anas (711-795 CE) and his texts, the *Al Muwatta* and *Al Mudawana*. Since early in his reign, King Mohammed has implemented the *Mudawana* family law code that gives rights to women in divorce and property ownership, as well as citizenship to children born from non-Moroccan fathers. He has also commissioned the Islamic Affairs Ministry to train women preachers, or *Morchidat*, who are now active chaplains to Moroccans across the globe.

Huge Influence over Muslims in Africa
King Mohammed VI leads the largest African monarchy, with a population of 32 million. Besides political links, Morocco maintains strong spiritual ties with Muslims all over Africa. Morocco is the site of the tomb of a highly revered Sufi sheikh, Mawlana Ahmed Ibn Mohammed Tijani al Hassani al Maghribi (1735–1815 CE), the founder of the Tijaniyya Sufi order, whose shrine attracts millions from across the continent. Morocco is also recognized as a source for the spread of Islam through West Africa. Thus, King Mohammed VI exercises vast amounts of power and influence over Muslims in Morocco, throughout Africa, and the rest of the world. He leads one of the most stable constitutional monarchies in the region, which is also the center of a moderate, flourishing Muslim culture.

Patron of the Al Qarawiyyin University
King Mohammad VI controls the oldest university in the world, the University of Al Qarawiyyin, in Fez, which was established in 859 CE.



4

HIS MAJESTY KING ABDULLAH II BIN AL HUSSEIN

King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

King Abdullah II of Jordan has influence in Jordan and around the world due to his lineage in the Hashemite family, his custodianship of Jerusalem and activism on various fronts—from freedom of the press and reformed domestic policy to international diplomacy. He is noted for having developed Jordan's free market economy, arts and culture scene, as well as addressing issues of homelessness and poverty in his reign as King.

Country: Jordan
Date of Birth: 30 January 1962
Source of Influence: Political, Lineage
Influence: Approximately 6.2 million Jordanians and outreach to Traditional Islam
School of Thought: Traditional Sunni

Prophetic Lineage
King Abdullah II is a member of the Hashemite family and the 42nd generation direct descendant of the Prophet Muhammad through the lineage of the Prophet's grandson al Hasan. The Hashemites, or *Bani Hashem,* link back to the tribe of Quraish. Hashem was the name of the Prophet's great-grandfather. King Abdullah II is thus a member of the *Ahl al Bayt* (the family of the Prophet Muhammad).

Ruling Dynasty
The Hashemite family ruled Mecca from 1201 CE to 1925 CE and other branches of the family have ruled Mecca from 500 CE, when Qusayy, the grandfather of Hashem, became Mecca's first King. His dynasty is the oldest ruling dynasty in the Islamic world, and the second-oldest in the world, after that of Japan.

Custodian of Holy Sites in Jerusalem
As custodian of the Muslim holy sites in the city of Jerusalem, King Abdullah maintains a unique prestige in the region.

Islamic Outreach
King Abdullah has proven influence at the forefront of a global intrafaith movement, through the creation of the Amman Message, a call for greater intra-religions tolerance and unity in Islam that was endorsed by representatives from all major Muslim groups in 2004. He is also credited with the Royal Aal al Bayt Institute for Islamic Thought's most authoritative website on Qur'an and *tafsir* or Qur'anic exegesis (Al-Tafsir.com). An extensive resource for Islamic scholarship, Al-Tafsir.com includes Arabic texts from over 90 commentaries of the Qur'an, *Hadith* texts, among other tools for research of the Qur'anic sciences, with daily hits in the thousands. He is also noted for founding the new World Islamic Sciences and Education University in Jordan (www.wise.edu.jo).

He is also lauded as an interfaith leader for the 2007 initiative, A Common Word—a groundbreaking initiative in Christian-Muslim engagement (www.acommonword.com).

Peace Activist
King Abdullah is the leading player in the dialogue for peace in Israel-Palestine. He has constantly and openly called for a discussion on the negotiations toward a two-state solution in the region since his ascension to the throne in 1999.



5

HIS EXCELLENCY RECEP TAYYIP ERDOGAN

Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey

Country: Turkey
Date of Birth: 26 February 1954
Source of Influence: Political
Influence: Leads government of 71.5 million Turkish citizens
School of Thought: Traditional Sunni

Erdogan is the prime minister of one of the most populous and economically developed Muslim-majority countries in the world. Although Turkey has been run according to the ideals of secularism since the end of the Ottoman Empire, the populace is predominantly religious, and primarily Muslim. Erdogan is also the chairman of the ruling AK Party (Adalet ve Kalkınma Partisi; Justice and Development Party). The name of AK Party's official ideology is 'conservative democracy', an attempt to create a vision of a Muslim democracy in an aggressively secular country.

A Popular Reformist
The political power that he now has, is in part due to the AK Party's ability to institute political reforms; both to produce major economic growth and also to enfranchise religious Muslim voters. In 2007, the party proposed a popular but controversial bill that called for lifting the ban on Muslim headscarves at universities. However, it is still legally forbidden to wear hijab at Turkish universities.

Despite his party's Islamic orientation, Erdogan has put increased emphasis on Turkey's accession to the EU—both in Ankara and Brussels. In fact, the stress on EU accession is partially because of his party's Islamic orientation, as accession to the EU requires further religious freedom reforms that are sought by Turkey's Muslim population. He also is leading groundbreaking initiatives to ensure the rights of Turkey's Kurdish population, and its religious minorities—underlining democratic reform as a core mission of his leadership.

A Mediator
Erdogan is building Turkey's stature on the world stage. He is exerting influence as a regional peacemaker by brokering peace talks between Syria and Israel, and has sought to create a role for Turkey as a bridge between cultures and civilizations. The Alliance of Civilizations initiative of the United Nations—that Erdogan initiated with the Spanish president, Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero—has become a key forum for international, intercultural, and interreligious dialogue and cooperation, with a particular emphasis on tensions that exist between the Muslim world and the West.

Good Neighbor Policy
Erdogan has led a new approach in Turkish foreign relations through his adoption of a 'good neighbor policy' towards Turkey's surrounding countries. During Erdogan's leadership Turkey has focused on building stronger relations with all of its seven land-contiguous neighbors (especially Greece) and also all of those countries bordering the Black Sea (an important trading hub and geopolitically significant area).



6

HIS MAJESTY SULTAN QABOOS BIN SA'ID AL SA'ID

Sultan of Oman

Sultan Qaboos bin Sa'id al Sa'id, the 14th descendant of the Al Bu Sa'idi dynasty, is a socially and politically active monarch, reigning for almost 40 years since he ascended to power in 1970. He has revolutionized and modernized Oman, transforming it from a poor, isolationist nation into a land closely-linked with the African continent and devoted to economic development, regional stability, and religious tolerance.

Country: Oman
Date of Birth: 18 November 1940
Source of Influence: Lineage, Political, Development
Influence: Leader of 3.4 million citizens and residents of Oman
School of Thought: Traditional Ibadi

Leader of Omani Sultanate

Sultan Qaboos al Sa'id reigns over a country strategically situated in the Gulf region. Oman has a stake in the crude oil market due to the Strait of Hormuz, which connects the Gulf of Oman to the Persian Gulf and the Arabian Sea, transporting about 40% of daily seaborne traded oil and 20% of all oil traded worldwide, according to the US Energy Information Administration.

Historically, Oman is significant as one of the only countries with a large population of Ibadi Muslims and as the most authoritative state in the Ibadi movement—one that is recognized as one of the oldest schools of Islamic thought.

Beacon of Islam

Sultan Qaboos has helped build or restore thousands of mosques at his personal expense, the grandest being the Sultan Qaboos Mosque, which can accommodate up to 20,000 worshippers. He is a discreet but strong supporter of moderate Islam. The Sultan has created a unique Islamic culture in Oman that has carefully combined the best of traditional Islam with the benefits of the modern world. He has promoted culturally-specific Islamic dress, art, architecture, culture and education, and is a keen advocate of the protection of the environment. This quiet, measured rise has made Oman a hidden pearl of the Islamic world.

Personal Leadership

The Sultan has raised the Omani standard of living by building up Oman's school system, healthcare, infrastructure, and economy. He cites political participation as one of his major long-term goals. Within the last two decades, he has introduced political reforms including a bicameral representative body, a basic law, universal suffrage, and a Supreme Court. Moreover, despite Oman's relative lack of oil and gas compared to other Gulf States, the Sultan has invested his country's wealth so wisely that all citizens are guaranteed free education until Ph.Ds (should they qualify); free healthcare; free land; soft loans for building homes; jobs and social security for the disabled, orphans and widows. Furthermore, unlike neighboring countries, Oman has resolved all its border demarcation issues with all its neighbors, has no foreign debt and has a Sovereign Wealth Reserve Fund of over 30 billion Riyals (about $100 billion). Oman is thus arguably the best administrated country in the Islamic world, if not in the whole world.



International Leader

He has been recognized by organizations such as the United Nations and the National Council of US-Arab Relations for his leadership in the Arabian Gulf region. In 2008, he presided over the GCC Summit, where he was commended for his ongoing efforts toward political and economic cooperation amongst the GCC states. Sultan Qaboos has made an effort to strengthen ties between Oman and Iran, as well as the strategic partnership between Oman and India—showing the Sultan's foresight in carving an international policy independent of that of his Arab neighbors.

7

HIS EMINENCE GRAND AYATOLLAH SAYYID ALI HUSSEINI SISTANI

Marja of the Hawza, Najaf, Iraq

Country: Iraq
Date of Birth: 4 August 1930
Source of Influence: Scholarly, Lineage
Influence: Highest authority for 17-20 million Iraqi Shi'a, and also internationally as a moral and religious authority to Usuli Twelver Shi'a worldwide
School of Thought: Traditional Twelver Shi'a, Usuli

Grand Ayatollah Sayyid Ali Husseini Sistani is the prime *marja*, or spiritual reference for *Ithna'Asharia* (Twelver) Shi'a Muslims. He is the leader of the Hawza Seminary in Najaf, Iraq and the preeminent Shi'a cleric globally. Sistani is one of the most respected of the *marjaiyya*—the highest position of authority in the Usuli school of Twelver Shi'a *fiqh*.

Preeminent Shi'a Cleric and *Marja Taqlid*

Sistani's influence in the Twelver Shi'a sect stems from his scholarly lineage and education, which has enabled him to reach the status of *marja taqlid*—the highest status in the Usuli branch of Twelver Shi'a Islam. *Marja taqlid* means literally one who is worthy of being imitated—placing Sistani in a position of great authority over Twelver Shi'a Muslims. There are currently only 29 *marjas* worldwide. Sistani is descended from a family of religious scholars, and was educated in the leading institutions in Iran. He later went to Najaf, Iraq to study under the Grand Ayatollah Abu al Qasim al Khoei. On Khoei's death in 1992 Sistani took over as grand ayatollah, inheriting al Khoei's following. He soon rose to become the leading cleric in Iraq. With the recent opening of Iraqi shrines to Iranian tourists Sistani is gaining a following outside of Iraq.

Financial Influence

Sistani also has very significant financial clout due to his position as *marja*. As a *marja* his followers give him a religious tax (*khums*, Arabic for one fifth). The redistribution of this tax for the common good is one of the key roles of a *marja*. Much of this remittance is redistributed through the Al Khoei Foundation—the largest Twelver Shi'a development organization in the world that maintains a network of educational and humanitarian establishments for both Shi'a and non-Shi'a Muslims.

Quietist Influence

Significantly Sistani is against the idea of *Velayat-e Faqih*, suggesting Shi'a clerics should not get involved in politics. Paradoxically this approach has afforded him very strong influence as a religious leader unsullied by politics. We can see this after the Iraq invasion when Sistani issued a legal ruling (*fatwa*) calling on the clergy to guide Iraq's populace, and later during the 2005 elections when he issued a ruling telling Shi'a women that they were religiously obliged to vote. Ali Sistani has used his position of quietist authority to wield influence also as a peacemaker in the turbulent post-invasion Iraq. At a time when Sistani was losing support to Sheikh Muqtada al Sadr, he showed his sway by arranging a lasting deal between Sadr and US forces at the Imam Ali Shrine in Najaf in 2005—a deal that secured the Shrine and pushed for an American retreat.

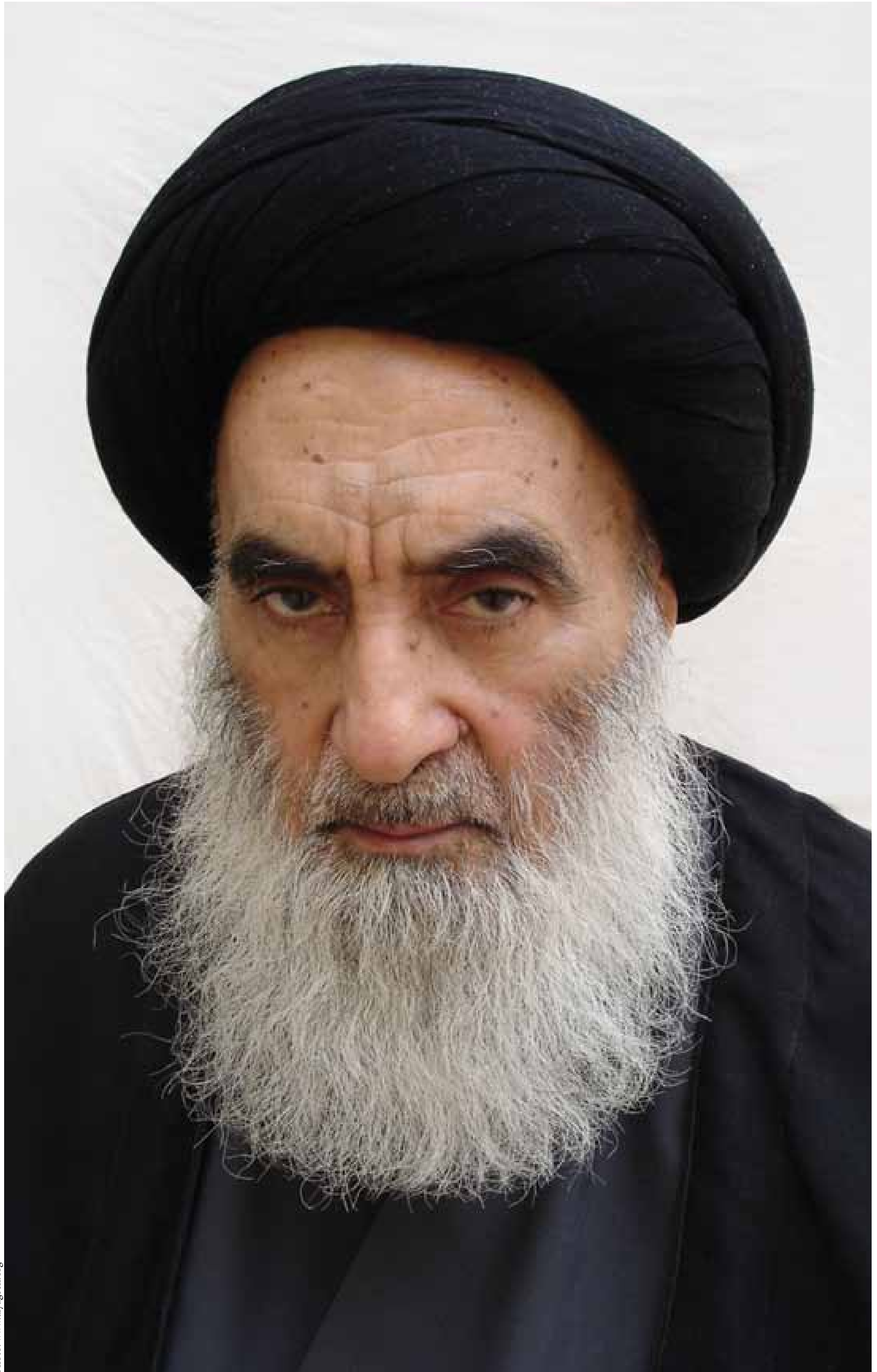


Photo: www.alyageen.org

8

HIS EMINENCE SHEIKH AL AZHAR DR MUHAMMAD SAYYID TANTAWI

Grand Sheikh of the Al Azhar University, Grand Imam of the Al Azhar Mosque

Country: Egypt
Date of Birth: 28 October 1928
Source of Influence: Scholarly, Administrative
Influence: Highest scholarly authority for a majority of Sunni Muslims
School of Thought: Traditional Sunni

Sheikh Muhammad Sayyid Tantawi is the Grand Imam of the Al Azhar Mosque and the Grand Sheikh of the Al Azhar University—the second oldest university in the world, founded in 975 CE. He is the leading authority for the vast majority of Sunni Muslims, and the head of the foremost Islamic educational institution.

Spiritual Leader of Al Azhar University

Tantawi's central influence comes from his position as the current head of the Al Azhar University. Al Azhar is the second oldest university in the world, and is the premier institution for Sunni Islamic scholarship, with a global outreach through 72 feeder schools, and more affiliated organizations. At any one time there are close to 300,000 students studying at Al Azhar, whose degrees will make them well-respected scholars of Islam in their communities. Including schools that are part of Al Azhar *waqf* initiatives there are close to 2 million students. This immense size and grounded respect make the head of Al Azhar an extraordinarily powerful and academically influential person. His position at the head of such an organization is due to his education in the leading institutions of Islamic education around the world. He has been a student of the Islamic sciences for over 60 years—studying in Egypt and Libya before leading the postgraduate department of Qur'anic commentary (*tafsir*) at the Islamic University of Medina in Saudi Arabia. In the mid-eighties Tantawi moved back to Egypt to head Al Azhar's faculty of Islamic Studies and Arabic, before being made Mufti of Egypt—a position he held for 10 years until he became the Grand Sheikh of Al Azhar.

Key Commentator on the Qur'an

Tantawi's ability to talk about Islam and his scholarly influence are founded on the Islamic practice of *tafsir*, that is, commentary on the Qur'an. His current influence is seen in his close participation with the creation of the first online *tafsir* database (www.altafsir.com).

Moderate Authority

Tantawi has secured his place as the bastion of Islamic moderation through a number of pragmatic legal rulings. He has been most influential as the moderate voice of the Islamic establishment. On thorny issues of the day, Tantawi has kept a cool head seeking judicious and restrained responses. On the issue of terrorism, Tantawi was quick to brand the perpetrators of terrorist acts as heretics, stating that it is not courageous 'to kill an innocent person, or to kill thousands of people, including men and women and children'. On other controversial issues such as apostasy, abortion in cases of rape, and female circumcision Tantawi has bucked popular trends and taken a liberal view.



9

SHEIKH DR YUSUF AL QARADAWI

Head of the International Union of Muslim Scholars

Country: Qatar
Date of Birth: 9 September 1926
Source of Influence: Scholarly
Influence: Leading scholar for global Muslim Brotherhood movement, host of 'Ash-Shariah wal-Hayat' on Al Jazeera with 40 million viewers worldwide
School of Thought: Traditional Muslim/Salafi

Yusuf al Qaradawi is an Egyptian scholar. He is articulate, widely read, and is one of the most widely commented on scholars of Islam. He is one of the intellectual leaders of the Muslim Brotherhood movement and a founder of the website IslamOnline.

Leading Figure of the Muslim Brotherhood

Qaradawi is incredibly influential as an intellectual leader of the Muslim Brotherhood—one of the most important modern movements in Islam. He has twice turned down offers to be their leader—in 1976 and 2004—preferring to be free of institutional restrictions. Qaradawi grew up and matured with the Muslim Brotherhood but has distanced himself from the movement in recent years. As early as 1997 he went out of his way to explain his independence from any organization, stating categorically that he was not a member of the Brotherhood. Earlier in his life Qaradawi was jailed three times for his relationship with the Muslim Brotherhood and subsequently stripped of his Egyptian Citizenship in the 1970s—driving him to seek exile in Qatar. The Muslim Brotherhood remains the main opposition force in Egypt. Although he has no formal relationship with the Muslim Brotherhood, his writings make him an important intellectual figure in the Muslim Brotherhood movement.

Popular Influence

Qaradawi is incredibly influential as a vociferous voice of criticism of the West and of Israel. Much of Qaradawi's influence over the past decade has been a product of his forthright views on combating social injustice, especially concerning Israeli-Palestinian relations. His view that suicide bombing is a legitimate form of self-defense has landed him in trouble in western Europe, but is reflective of an underlying sentiment among many in the Middle East that oppression deserves such a response—however he goes against the grain of most leading Islamic thinkers by supporting suicide bombing as a tactic of war.

Traditional Scholar for Modern Times

Qaradawi's ability to combine the traditional knowledge of Islamic law with a contemporary understanding of the issues that Muslims face today, have lead him to become one of the best known and most influential contemporary Muslim clerics of our time. He uses a variety of means to connect with people. He is well known for his popular Al Jazeera program 'Ash-Shariah wal-Hayat' (Islamic Law and Life) that is watched by an estimated 40 million people worldwide. Despite his popularity, Qaradawi is often criticized by fellow scholars regarding his methodology and his occasionally unusual opinions. He does however continue to be respected as a knowledgeable scholar and has been praised for his condemnation of the September 11th attacks.



10

HIS EMINENCE SHEIKH DR ALI GOMA'A

Grand Mufti of Egypt

Sheikh Ali Goma'a is the Grand Mufti of the Arab Republic of Egypt. He is the second highest Sunni authority in Egypt after Sheikh Tantawi and one of the foremost Islamic scholars in the world. Goma'a is responsible for the Dar al Ifta al Masriyyah, a leading institute for Islamic legal research, and the legal arm of the Egyptian Ministry of Justice, which is responsible for passing official religious rulings.

Country: Egypt
Date of Birth: 3 March 1953
Source of Influence: Scholarly, Political
Influence: Legal authority for 77 million Egyptians
School of Thought: Traditional Sunni, Shafi'i

Egypt's Weight in Islamic Scholarship

Goma'a's scholarly influence is derived from his position at the center of many of the most significant institutions of Islamic law in the world. Before becoming Grand Mufti, Goma'a was a professor of jurisprudence at Al Azhar University—the second oldest university in the world, founded in 975 CE—and served as a member of the Fatwa Council. He is currently a member of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy, the highest institute of Islamic law of the Organization of the Islamic Conference—an intergovernmental organization for Muslim-majority countries.

Personal Popularity

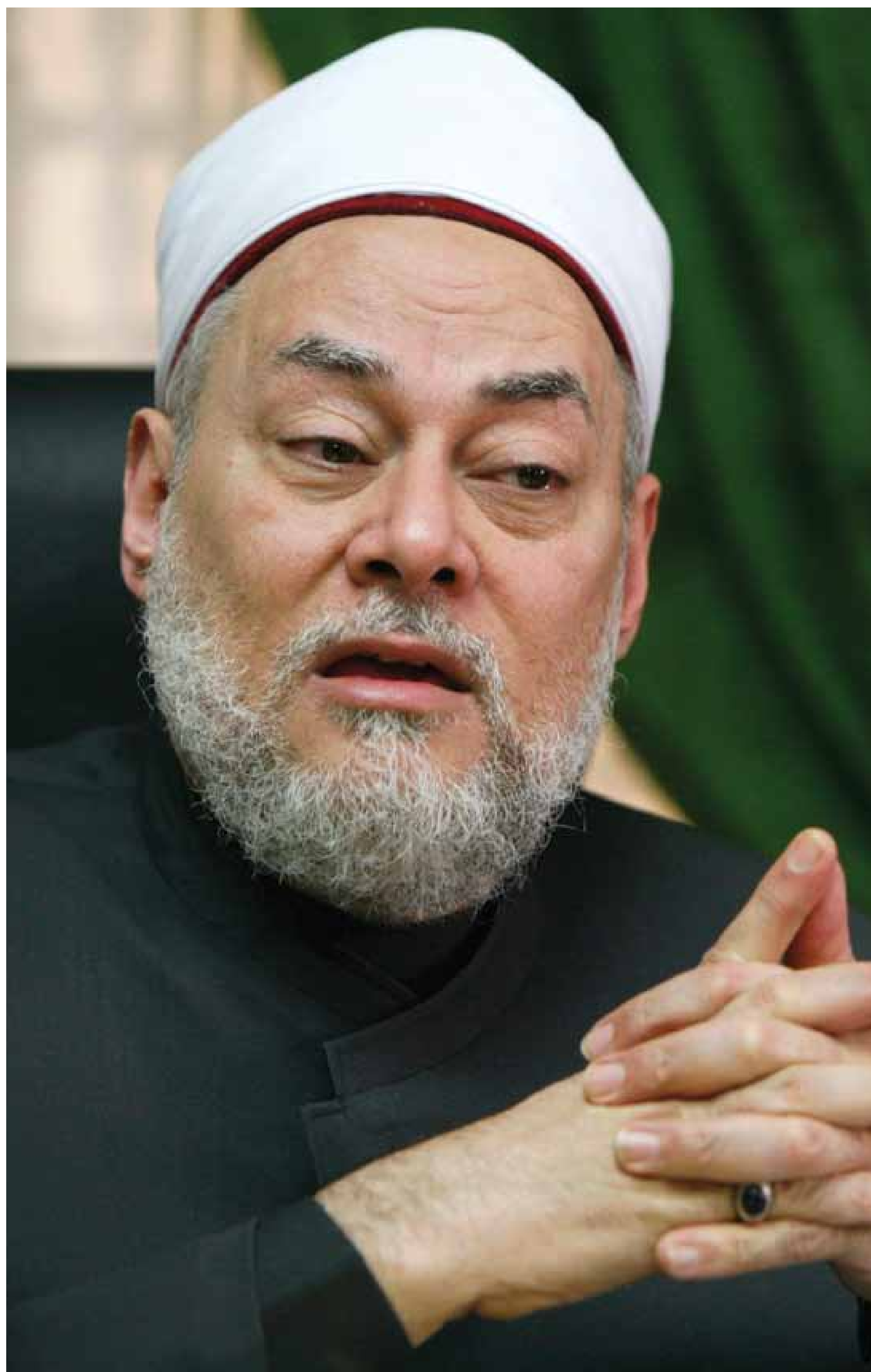
Goma'a has become incredibly popular as a mufti since he began to appear on popular broadcast and satellite television. Part of his appeal is due to the revival of the old Islamic practice of informal 'knowledge circles' at the Al Azhar Mosque, and very well attended Q&A sessions after his Friday sermons at the Sultan Hasan Mosque, where Goma'a makes a point of taking on anyone who tries to simplify or distort Islamic teachings without knowledge of its traditions. This has made him extremely popular with those who are uncomfortable with extremism.

Popularized and Simplified *Fatwas*

Goma'a has immense legal influence through his advocacy of Islamic legal rulings (*fatwa*). Since he was appointed Grand Mufti of Egypt in 2003, Goma'a has modernized the process of issuing *fatwas* in Egypt. He has done this by overhauling the Dar al Ifta organization into a dynamic institution with worldwide reach, based on a *fatwa* council and a system of checks and balances. He has been forthright in his criticism of poorly thought-out *fatwas* calling those who make such rulings criminals.

High-Tech Influence

Goma'a has authored over 50 books, as well as hundreds of articles. He now uses the Dar al Ifta to get his scholarly opinion out. His office issues some 5,000 *fatwas* a week, with official ones on important issues written by him and the routine ones dealt with via phone and the Internet by a team of subordinate muftis. He believes that respect for traditionalism is growing in the Muslim world, partly because of the immense demand for *fatwas* issued by his office.



11

HIS EMINENCE SHEIKH ABDUL AZIZ IBN ABDULLAH AAL AL SHEIKH

Grand Mufti of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Country: Saudi Arabia

Date of Birth: 1941

Source of Influence: Scholarly, Administrative

Influence: Grand Mufti to 25.3 million Saudis and the global network of Salafi Muslims

School of Thought: Salafi

As the Grand Mufti, Sheikh Abdul Aziz ibn Abdullah Aal al Sheikh has the highest position of religious authority in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He is an Islamic scholar based in Mecca—the seat of Sunni Islam—and has influence as a leading cleric of the expansive global movement of Salafi Muslims.

Head of Sunni Jurisprudential Committees

Sheikh Abdul Aziz Aal al Sheikh is chairman of the Council of Senior Scholars, a scientific consultative commission composed of leading Sunni specialists of *sharia* (Islamic law). He has been behind *fatwas* that call for more rights for women and children.

Al Sheikh is also chairman of the Permanent Committee for Islamic Research and *fatwas* (religious rulings), a special committee designated for the researching and issuing of religious rulings on jurisprudence, the *Hadith*, and creed for the Sunni world.

As head of the Presidency for Scientific Research and Religious Edicts (Dar al Ifta), al Sheikh is often the spokesperson for controversial rulings issued from the Kingdom. He is recognized for his influence in enforcing a distinct view of Islamic tradition. In 2008, he publicly criticized Muslim televangelists that encouraged Muslims to celebrate birthdays and anniversaries—stressing, instead, that only the two occasions of 'Eid and the weekly Friday observations are valid occasions to celebrate. In this, and also in his condemnation of Turkish soap operas sweeping the Arab world, al Sheikh has stressed the importance of eliminating distracting practices. He is also ardently opposed to the practice of marrying off very young girls to older men, stressing its incongruence with human decency and Islamic tradition.

Central Figure of Global Salafi Movement

As Grand Mufti of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, al Sheikh is the leading religious figure of the Saudi-based network of Salafi Muslims. He stresses the importance of adhering to a literal interpretation of the scripture and following Islam as it was practiced by the early generations of Muslims. The rulings derived by al Sheikh are based heavily on a literal reading of the Qur'an and emphasize the need to strip away innovative cultural practices that have become a part of Muslims' lives across cultures. The movement he leads is characterized by an authoritative stance on Islamic religious practice.

Eminent Scholarship

Grand Mufti al Sheikh is recognized as a leading contemporary scholar of Islam. He has leveraged this influence by openly speaking out against Osama bin Laden and Al Qaeda as entities that push a dangerous ideological terrorism. He spoke for the need for a war—to be fought by academics, the media, religious leaders and even parents—against deviant thought that leads overzealous Muslims toward extremism and violence.



12

MOHAMMAD MAHDI AKEF

Supreme Guide of the Muslim Brotherhood

Country: Egypt
Date of Birth: 12 July 1928
Source of Influence: Administrative, Political, International Islamic Networks
Influence: Leader of a transnational movement in Egypt and across the Middle East, Africa, the UK, and US
School of Thought: Sunni, Muslim Brotherhood

Mohammad Mahdi Akef became Supreme Guide of the Muslim Brotherhood in 2004. He has since actively led the largest Islamic political party in Egypt, arranging mass protests criticizing the conflict in Gaza, and demanding an apology from the Pope during his trip to Jordan, among other things; all in the face of mounting criticism of the Brotherhood's beliefs and practices.

Leader of an Expansive Muslim Network

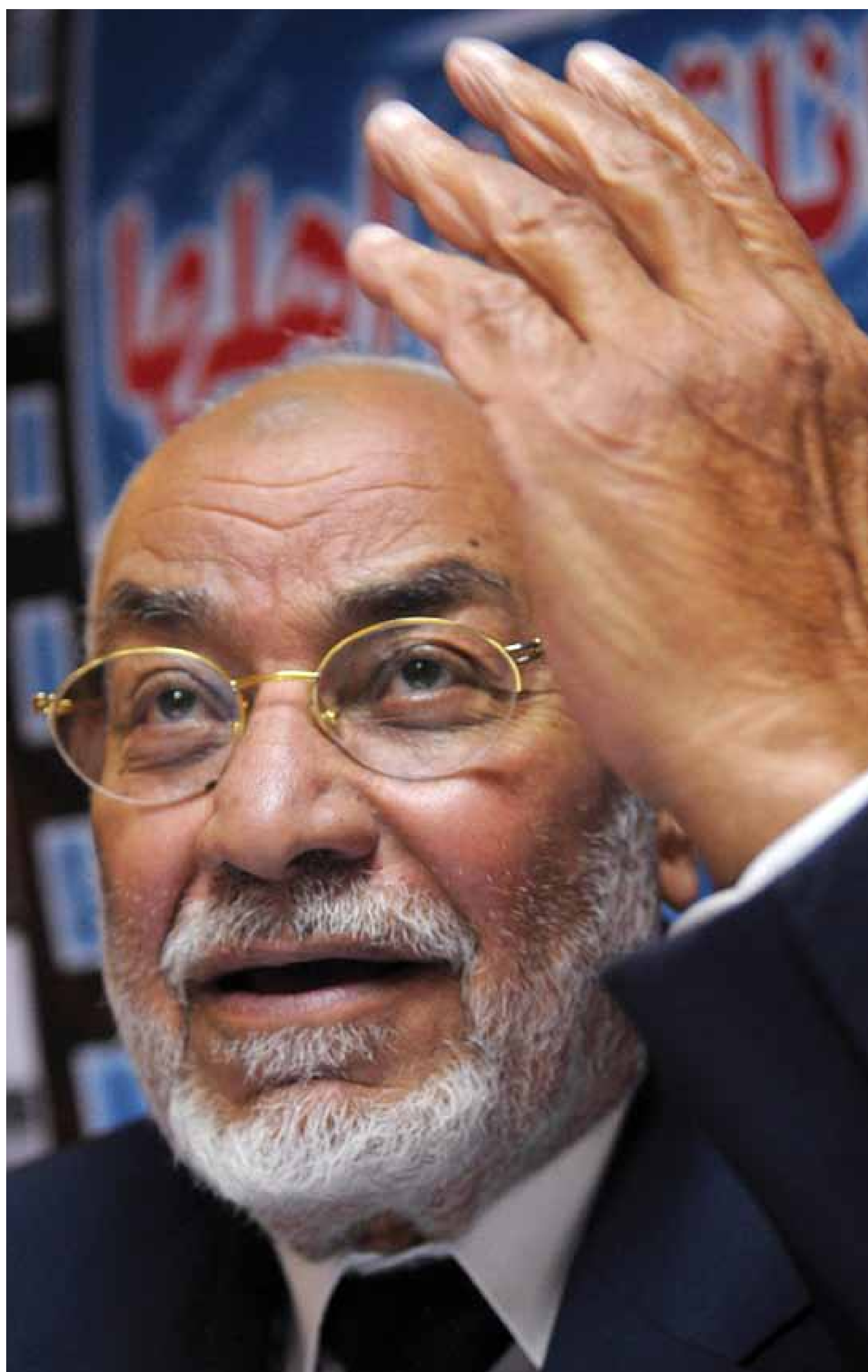
Akef heads the oldest and largest Muslim social, religious, and political organization in existence. The Muslim Brotherhood forms the leading opposition party in many Muslim countries and has branches in most of the Muslim world, besides its base in Egypt. Members of the organization are found in Bahrain, Syria, Palestine, Israel, Jordan, Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Algeria, Sudan, Somalia, Tunisia, and Libya, as well as the United States.

In his five years leading the Muslim Brotherhood, Akef has constantly spoken out against injustices against Muslims in Egypt and other countries. In May 2009, Akef made a public statement about the need for Egypt to acknowledge gratefulness for Hasan Nasrallah's support of the Palestinian resistance.

Head of a Leading Islamic Reform Movement

Akef distinguishes himself and the Brotherhood through a distinctive take on Islamic law, stating that apostasy should not be punishable, rather permitted as a freedom to all Muslims. With a firm belief that constitutional reform is possible in Egypt, Akef encourages Muslims to be more proactive in staking their claims to a more representative and more Islamic government. Akef has often pushed for the Muslim Brotherhood's mission of political activism and economic development in Muslim countries as an internal process, without the interference of foreign entities. He openly criticized the US 'Greater Middle East Initiative' by presenting a counter proposal in 2006 of political and economic reforms promoted by the Brotherhood—it has been popularly seen in Egypt as more valid than the US proposal.

What makes the Muslim Brotherhood and Akef's work distinct and far more influential than other Islamic political parties is the emphasis on making faith a guidepost in all political endeavors and, importantly, neither a hindrance to political progress nor a deficiency. This has been both a source of massive support, but also criticism—critics saw that the use of 'Islam is the Solution' as a campaign slogan took away from its legitimacy as a political organization.



13

HODJAEFENDI FETHULLAH GÜLEN

Turkish Muslim Preacher

Country: Turkey
Date of Birth: 27 April 1941
Source of Influence: Scholarly
Influence: Figure of spiritual and social leadership for millions of Turkish Muslims and others around the world
School of Thought: Traditional Sunni

Fethullah Gülen is a preacher, thinker and educator, who having assumed the leadership of the Nurcu religious movement—started by Said Nursî (1878-1960 CE)—has gone on to become a global phenomenon in his own right. His popularity and authority in Turkey has been the driving force of the movement that is widely thought to have brought about the social and eventually political changes of which politician Recep Tayyip Erdogan has been the ultimate heir—that is the enfranchisement of Muslim politics in Turkey. Despite his peaceful means of preaching and community organization, Gülen is hated by the secularist establishment in Turkey and has been living in the US since 1999.

Humanitarian Reformer
Gülen and his followers have devoted considerable energy in recent years on interreligious dialogue with tens of interfaith centers in Europe and the US being opened to foster better relations across faiths. He also is the head of a series of socially oriented philanthropic efforts. His teaching underscores that there are no material shortages in the world, and that there is no justification for starvation. He has established many charities to distribute wealth to the needy.

Catalyst for Educational Change
When he began preaching in Izmir—in his youth—a network of pupils began to unite around his teachings—as a 'social movement' inspired by Gülen's example. This movement has culminated in the development of around 300 schools in Turkey and hundreds more worldwide. Graduates from these private schools around the world are coached in ethics and philosophy that are inspired by his teachings, and continue to take top honors in university placement tests.

Influence in the Media
The movement has opened hospitals and charities, but also a TV and radio station, as well as a bank—Asya Finans—that operates on Islamic principles. Gülen also has two major mass-circulation daily Turkish newspapers that are affiliated with his movement: 'Zaman' and the English-language 'Today's Zaman'. The network has also initiated a Journalists and Writers Foundation and a Teachers Foundation—providing an umbrella organization for a host of dialogue groups and charitable organizations.

Thinker
Gülen is one of the most important thinkers and writers from Turkey, and among the most effective activists in twentieth-century Turkey. The Gülen movement is one of the best connected and therefore most powerful of the networks that are competing to influence Muslims around the globe, making it likely to have an enduring impact on the modernization of Islam and its engagement with Western ideas.


Photo property of The Royal Islamic Strategic Studies Centre

14

AMR KHALED

Preacher and Social Activist

Amr Khaled has been a televangelist to the Islamic world since 1998. Described as the 'world's most influential Muslim television preacher' by *The New York Times Magazine*, and ranked as the 13th most influential person in the world by *TIME Magazine*. He communicates through his TV shows and web campaigns using Islamic ethics as a way to inspire, foster community development, tolerance and inter-cultural relations.

Country: Egypt
Date of Birth: 5 September 1967
Source of Influence: Media, Youth
Influence: Most popular personal website in the world with 20 million regular users; 232,219 fans on 79 Facebook groups; Approx. 2 million hits on 200 YouTube videos
School of Thought: Traditional Sunni in a modern style

Popular Media Figure

Part of Khaled's influence derives from the fact that he appeals to the common person. He holds a degree in accounting, and has no formal religious education; wears suits and ties, not flowing robes; and has a clean-shaven face except for a trimmed moustache—everything you do not expect from a Muslim preacher. His everyman appeal has lead to immense popularity. Khaled's television shows are broadcast by four Arab satellite stations but air primarily on Saudi-based religious channel Iqraa. Khaled's speeches are published online, on bestselling cassettes and CDs. His website is translated from Arabic to nearly twenty languages and rivals Oprah Winfery's in terms of traffic.

Voice for the Youth

Amr Khaled is a pioneering Muslim preacher and effective social activist who is revered by many as the leader of a revival in the Muslim world, but his influence stems largely from the fact that he engages young people. Youth in the Middle East and North Africa face disproportionate challenges, such as unemployment and social exclusion—obstacles, which make it difficult to compete with development in other areas of the world. Faith is important to young people in the Middle East, but they do not connect with the majority of preachers whose teachings do not speak to the problems in their lives.

Community Development

Khaled's goal is to encourage community development in the Muslim world by its own people with religious faith as the guiding inspiration—something he believes should be linked to interfaith dialogue, tolerance and moderation. The break up of communities is something he sees as responsible for the malaise in the Muslim world, and something he believes puts the future of young people in jeopardy. One program he has launched to realize this objective of community development is Life Makers, which has a stated goal of producing a renaissance for the Arab and Muslim world.



15
HAJJI MOHAMMED ABD AL WAHHAB
Ameer of Tablighi Jamaat, Pakistan

Country: Pakistan
Date of Birth: 1923
Source of Influence: International Islamic Networks, Scholarly, Administrative
Influence: Leader of a Pakistan-based organization with chapters in 120 countries, an annual conference in Pakistan, the Raiwind Tablighi Ijtima, which drew 1.5 million attendees in 2008, and the Biswa Ijtima conference in Bangladesh that attracts approximately three million members each year
School of Thought: Traditional Sunni, Hanafi

Leader of the Pakistan chapter of the *Tablighi Jamaat*—a transnational Islamic organization dedicated to spreading the message of religious conservatism and renewed spirituality—Hajji Abd al Wahhab is a prominent Pakistani scholar with a significant following in South Asia and the United Kingdom. Although the organization does not have a central authority, Abd al Wahhab has been increasingly influential in his leadership of the throngs of Muslims that follow the international movement in Pakistan and abroad.

Missionary
As *ameer*, or leader of Pakistan's *Tablighi Jamaat*, Hajji Abd al Wahhab's influence spans globally due to the organization's emphasis on missionary work. Considered a foremost *da'ee*, or inviter to the faith of Islam, Abd al Wahhab has spoken about the need to return to the correct beliefs and practices of Islam in numerous countries and congregations.

Champion of Conservatism
Abd al Wahhab urges Muslims to repent for their sins and to emulate the life of the Prophet Muhammad by adhering to the *sunna*—the Prophet's teachings and deeds. Among these is an exhortation to partake in the act of *da'wa* or spreading the message of the faith. The *Tablighi Jamaat* has gradually acquired a massive membership base owing to this core tenet. His work is derived from close ties with the founder of the *Tablighi Jamaat*, Maulana Muhammad Ilyas Kandhelvi, and stems from the prominent Islamic institution Darul Uloom Deoband, in India, where the latter studied before establishing a following in Pakistan.

Mass Appeal
Among the throngs of Pakistanis, diaspora South Asians, and others who carry the flag of the *Tablighi Jamaat* are notable Muslim leaders. In Pakistan alone, Abd al Wahhab's influence has won the allegiance of prominent politicians, actors, and athletes. Despite his influence over key Muslim leaders from various fields of social power, he is consistent in his assertion that the organization is wholly apolitical—identifying the work of the *Tablighi Jamaat* as a spiritual revivalist movement.

Advocate of Non-violence
In light of heightened incidences of violence by fringe Islamic militant groups, Abd al Wahhab has publicly stated the importance of non-violence in bringing people closer to the faith of Islam. This comes after the tragic Mumbai attacks which investigations found were linked to the Pakistan-based, *Lashkar-e-Taiba;* a militant organization Abd al Wahhab has made a point of distancing the *Tablighi Jamaat* from.



Photographs of Hajji Mohammed Abd al Wahhab are not available due to the Tablighi Jamaat's strict prohibition of the use of images of people. This photo shows some of the millions that make their way annually to hear Tablighi leaders at the Biswa Ijitma in Bangladesh.

16

HIS ROYAL EMINENCE AMIRUL MU'MININ SHEIKH AS SULTAN MUHAMMADU SA'ADU ABUBAKAR III

Sultan of Sokoto

Amirul Mu'minin Sheikh as Sultan Muhammadu Sa'adu Abubakar III is the 20th Sultan of Sokoto. As Sultan of Sokoto, he is considered the spiritual leader of Nigeria's 74.6 million Muslims, who account for roughly 50 percent of the nation's population. Although the position of Sultan of Sokoto has become largely ceremonial, the holder is still a central figure for Nigerian Muslims.

Country: Nigeria
Date of Birth: 24 August 1956
Source of Influence: Lineage, Development, Administrative
Influence: Central figure for approximately 74.6 million Nigerian Muslims
School of Thought: Traditional Sunni, Maliki; Linked to the Qadiriyyah Sufi order by lineage

Lineage Back to Sheikh Usman Dan Fodio

The Sultan of Sokoto is the spiritual leader of Nigeria's enormous Muslim community. He gains this position by lineage. Abubakar is the 20th heir to the two-century-old throne founded by his ancestor, Sheikh Usman Dan Fodio. Dan Fodio, (1754-1817 CE) was a scholar, leader of the Maliki school of Islam and the Qadiri branch of Sufism, and Islamic reformer of the nineteenth century. Dan Fodio believed that Islam should have a more central role in the life of the people of West Africa and led an uprising to institute the changes he sought. His figure and his writings are a very important chapter in the history of Islam in West Africa, and Abubakar by lineage holds a key place in West African Islam, and particularly for the Fulani and Hausa people who followed Dan Fodio.

A Respected Family

The position currently does carry with it some weight—though largely ceremonial since British colonial rule diminished its political significance. Much of this clout is derived from the respect that was earned by Siddiq Abu Bakar Dan Usman—17th Sultan and father of Abubakar—who held the Sultanate for over fifty years. The rule of Abubakar's father from 1938 to 1988 earned the position significant social capital and popularity with ordinary Muslims.

Administrative Power

Abubakar holds important administrative influence in Nigerian religious life. Abubakar is the titular ruler of Sokoto in northern Nigeria and also is the head of the Nigerian National Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs. Leadership of this council means that the Sultan of Sokoto remains the only figure that can legitimately claim to speak on behalf of all Nigerian Muslims. This role has become increasingly influential over the years with a rise in interreligious tensions between Nigeria's Muslim-majority North and Christian-majority South. The late Sultan Siddiq Abu Bakar dan Usman was widely respected for trying to ease tensions between Nigeria's Muslim and Christian communities, which occasionally spill over into sectarian violence. Abubakar also possesses military experience in conflict areas.



17

SEYYED HASAN NASRALLAH

Secretary General of Hezbollah

Country: Lebanon
Date of Birth: 31 August 1960
Source of Influence: Political, Development
Influence: Main political leader of approximately 1.5 million Lebanese Shi'a (40% of Lebanon's population), wider support with the Syrian and Iranian Shi'a populations and those who support his resistance to Israel
School of Thought: Traditional Twelver Shi'a, Revolutionary Shi'ism

Seyyed Hasan Nasrallah is the current and third Secretary General of Hezbollah (the Party of God). Hezbollah is a Twelver Shi'a Islamic political party and paramilitary organization based in Lebanon. Hezbollah's ideology is based on seeking social justice through Islamic ideals. Political and military successes have made Nasrallah a vastly influential figure in Lebanon, and in the Middle East more broadly. Nasrallah and Hezbollah are also controversial; the US and Canada list Hezbollah as a terrorist organization.

Military Power
Nasrallah has immense importance in Lebanon as a figure of military power. He gained this influence by leading Hezbollah during the time that Israeli forces withdrew from southern Lebanon. The withdrawal resulted in huge popularity for Nasrallah, giving him increased recognition at home and abroad as a powerful figure in the Middle East. Hezbollah remains a *de facto* security force in southern Lebanon, and its military presence is felt throughout the country, with a force of around 300,000 fighters.

Lebanon's leading Twelver Shi'a
Under Nasrallah, Hezbollah has gained in popularity and in political stature. As Syria and Israel have withdrawn from Lebanon, Hezbollah has begun to position itself as a Lebanese nationalist organization, with revolutionary Shi'ism as the guiding line. Nasrallah was educated at the Hawza Shi'a seminary in Najaf in Iraq, where he met Abbas Musawi, his predecessor as leader of Hezbollah. Nasrallah took over leadership in 1992 and has popularized the party among the Muslim population, and also among non-Muslims. Hezbollah has gained wide popular appeal by providing social services, health care and also running Al Manar—an influential television station.

Social Services
Hezbollah has also won significant grassroots support by cultivating a social welfare system that provides schools, clinics, and housing in the predominantly Shi'a parts of Lebanon, but also in others. These welfare activities are run with efficiency and rival those carried out by the state, giving the organization even broader appeal.

International Symbol of Resistance Against Israel
Nasrallah has broader influence in the Muslim world as a figure of defiance against Israel. Israel remains a key issue for the Muslim world and Hezbollah's aim to achieve social justice there is central to its activities. The military successes he had in the late nineties are seen as the main factor for Israel's withdrawal from South Lebanon in 2000. Moreover the staunch defense put up by Hezbollah forces against Israel in July 2006 earned Nasrallah many more supporters.



18

DR KH ACHMAD HASYIM MUZADI

Chairman of Indonesia's *Nahdlatul Ulama*

Country: Indonesia
Date of Birth: 8 August 1944
Source of Influence: Administrative, Political, Development
Influence: Leader of approximately 30 million members of the *Nahdlatul Ulama*
School of Thought: Traditional Sunni

Dr KH Achmad Hasyim Muzadi is the leader of Indonesia's largest independent Muslim organization and one of the world's most influential Islamic organizations, *Nahdlatul Ulama* (NU), or 'Awakening of Scholars'. He guides millions through his work with the NU.

Head of Expansive Network

The *Nahdlatul Ulama* boasts an expansive network that covers 30 regions with 339 branches, 12 special branches, 2,630 representative councils and 37,125 sub-branch representative councils across Indonesia. This network practices the doctrine of *Ahlassunah wal Jama'ah*, which is Arabic for 'people of the *Sunna* (practices of the Prophet Muhammad) and the community'. They base their practices on the traditional sources of Islamic jurisprudence—mainly the Qur'an, *Hadith*, and major schools of law.

Among its aims are the propagation of *Nahdlatul Ulama*'s message and also an expansion of its already extensive network of members in Indonesia. This is the basis of many of the organization's social reform efforts. With a solid structure of central and regional boards, branch and special branch boards, and various advisory councils, Muzadi sits at the top of this increasingly influential Sunni movement.

Model of Traditionalism

With a mainly rural membership base, the *Nahdlatul Ulama* distinguishes itself from other Islamic organizations in Indonesia by positioning itself as a premier organization of traditional Islam—with an emphasis on education and political engagement based on Islamic principles. Muzadi also speaks up against edicts of the Indonesia Ulema Council that are inconsistent with the legal leniency of Islamic law, such as the recent *fatwas* (religious rulings) against smoking, and a subsequent proscription against Facebook.

Social Servant

The *Nahdlatul Ulama* has made substantial charitable contributions to Indonesian society in the fields of educational development, healthcare, and poverty alleviation. Although Muzadi stresses that the work of his organization is geared toward establishing a secular nation-state based on a body of modern and moderate Muslims; his agenda items—such as anti-corruption laws and social reform measures—are deeply rooted in Islamic principles.



19

SHEIKH SALMAN AL OUDA

Saudi Scholar and Educator

A leading Saudi sheikh, Salman al Ouda is a former hard-line cleric turned advocate of peaceful coexistence. He is increasingly influential due to his innovative reach in the Muslim world propagated via IslamToday.com and his persistent efforts at ministering to the needs of the global Muslim community.

Country: Saudi Arabia
Date of Birth: 1955
Source of Influence: Scholarly, Media
Influence: Supervises IslamToday.com with 2,000 daily hits, has published 50 books, numerous television appearances that reach millions of people across the globe
School of Thought: Moderate Salafi

Key Scholar of Salafi Network
Sheikh Salman al Ouda is a leading scholar of the Salafi movement. Although he is not noted for propagating innovative ideas within the network, he has notable influence in the movement due to his use of multiple modes of education (web, audiovisual media, and print) to educate the large body of Salafi Muslims in the Islamic sciences. His website brings together a diverse range of Islamic scholars and educators to provide guidance in Islamic thought.

Influence Through Virtual Islamic Resource
Sheikh al Ouda supervises all content published on IslamToday.com—a website that offers virtual resources for Islamic education on the Internet in multiple languages. His work has far-reaching impact in an age when religion is spread through media and technology, with IslamToday.com at the forefront of this trend.

Innovative Educator
Al Ouda developed a following from weekly talks at his local mosque in Buraydah and has become an authority for Muslims and non-Muslims worldwide who access IslamToday.com—a Saudi-funded website dedicated to providing Islamic educational resources in English, Arabic, French and Chinese. He also addresses Islamic issues on the Saudi satellite channel MBC.

Ambassador of Non-violence
In an effort to distance himself from alleged connections to perpetrators of terrorism, al Ouda is outspoken about the importance of inculcating love and mercy as opposed to violence in the daily life of Muslims—except in valid cases of self-defense. As a prominent member of the International Union for Muslim Scholars, he led the delegation in talks with Arab heads of state and the need for them to unite in opposition to Israel's siege of Gaza in early 2009.

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HIS HIGHNESS SHAH KARIM AL HUSSAYNI

The Aga Khan IV, 49th Imam of Ismaili Muslims

Shah Karim Al Hussayni, also known as simply the Aga Khan (Imamate: 1957-Present), is the leader of the Shi'a sect of Muslims known as the Nizari Ismailis. For 5 million Nizari Ismaili Muslims he is the 49th hereditary Imam, with lineage descending back to Ali, the cousin of the Prophet Muhammad. He is only the fourth Aga Khan, a hereditary title bestowed upon the Imam by the Shah of Persia in the mid-nineteenth century.

Country: France
Date of Birth: 13 December 1936
Source of Influence: Lineage, Administrative
Influence: Approximately 5 million Nizari Ismailis
School of Thought: Modernist Shi'a, Ismaili, Nizari

Hereditary Leader of Ismailis

The Aga Khan derives his position of authority from his lineage. He has a direct line of ancestry going back to Imam Ali. For Nizari Ismaili Muslims this ancestry is directly attached to the idea of an Imamate starting with Imam Ali. However their lineage differs from the larger sect of *Ithna'Asharia* (Twelver) Shi'a. Twelver Shi'a heritage derives from the younger son of the sixth Imam Jafar al Sadiq, whereas Ismaili heritage derives from the elder son. His influence stems from his obligation to lead the community, finding solutions to the ever-changing issues facing his followers. At the age of 21 he bypassed his father and uncle to become the 49th Imam, a choice that his grandfather made because he felt the community needed a leader 'who has been brought up and developed during recent years and in the midst of the new age, and who brings a new outlook on life to his office.'

Unparalleled Philanthropist

The Aga Khan is also an influential philanthropist on the world stage. His influence on development is very significant and disproportionate to the size of the Nizari Ismaili community, which is one of the smaller Muslim sects. To fulfill the Imam's responsibilities in the contemporary world, the Aga Khan set up the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN). The AKDN is a collection of development and humanitarian agencies working in areas of poverty. The network is widely known for its architectural and cultural work, including projects that revitalize historic cities. These initiatives aim to show the greatness of Islamic civilization through projects such as the renovation of the Old City of Aleppo and the Al Azhar Park in Cairo. His foundation maintains a strong and enduring presence in developing countries—building healthcare capacity, promoting economic development in rural areas and helping improve educational opportunities. The AKDN is particularly influential in Central Asia, where it works in areas that are often neglected by other organizations.



21

HIS HIGHNESS EMIR SHEIKH MOHAMMED BIN RASHID AL MAKTOUM

Ruler of Dubai, Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates

As prime minister and vice president of the United Arab Emirates and ruler of Dubai, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al Maktoum is a prominent head of state who has made waves in international business and development, as well as through substantial domestic economic and social reforms. As a catalyst of economic growth he is one of the most successful figures in the Muslim world.

Country: United Arab Emirates
Date of Birth: 22 July 1949
Source of Influence: Political, Administrative
Influence: Immense financial influence in the Gulf as the world's fifth richest royal
School of Thought: Traditional Sunni

Leader of Key Gulf Nation
Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al Maktoum leads the Emirate of Dubai, and is in the second most senior political position in the UAE. Dubai's highly developed economy, and the UAE's massive oil and natural gas reserves put al Maktoum at the head of one of the richest countries, per capita, in the world. He is the fifth richest royal in the world.

With several major seaports and airports, the UAE is noted for its infrastructure, and much of its development is credited to al Maktoum. Over the years, the UAE has developed strong diplomatic ties with many Western countries, the Arab League, and members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) that are the six Arab states of the Persian Gulf.

Leader of Substantial Muslim Population
The UAE's citizenry is approximately 96% Muslim, and a majority of Dubai's citizens are also Muslim. Under Maktoum's leadership, their sustained tolerance toward Christian, Jewish, Hindu and other religious minorities, has given Dubai a reputation for being open to the free practice of religion.

Avid Developer
Al Maktoum is responsible for managing the construction of the man-made Palm Islands, the luxury hotel Burj Al Arab, as well as the Burj Dubai, now recognized as the tallest freestanding building in the world. This, in conjunction with its developed economy, makes Dubai a world business hub, and a rapidly developing Gulf state.

Charitable Benefactor
Aside from having pledged $10 billion for the Mohammed bin Rashid al Maktoum Educational Foundation domestically, al Maktoum is heralded as a humanitarian for his financial relief efforts. He has donated over $910 million for children's educational development as part of the UN Millennium Development Goals. He has also established Noor Dubai, an initiative in conjunction with the World Health Organization, to address treatable blindness and visual impairment in developing countries by providing medical treatment; which has helped over 2 million people so far.



22

HIS HIGHNESS GENERAL SHEIKH MOHAMMED BIN ZAYED AL NAHYAN

Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and
Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces

Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed al Nahyan is the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, as well as next in line to be President of the United Arab Emirates. The UAE is increasingly becoming an important center for global weapons trading, with Abu Dhabi hosting one of the world's the largest defense expos in 2009.

Country: United Arab Emirates
Date of Birth: 1961
Source of Influence: Administrative, Development, Philanthropy
Influence: Military and political leadership, with prospective presidency over an estimated 4.8 million residents of UAE
School of Thought: Traditional Sunni

Political and Military Leadership

Sheikh Mohammed is chairman of the Abu Dhabi Executive Council—an executive leadership body in Abu Dhabi, which is constantly engaged in the assessment of public policy. Since becoming Crown Prince in 2004, Sheikh Mohammed has been recognized for his groundbreaking initiatives as an influential leader of Abu Dhabi as well as Deputy Supreme Commander of the armed forces. He is a special advisor to UAE President H.H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed al Nahyan.

Economic Development

With Abu Dhabi sitting on a 10th of the world's proven oil reserves Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed al Nahyan maintains immense political influence in the Muslim world as a leading member of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company—which directs development efforts for the UAE's role in the oil and gas industries. Sheikh Mohammed is responsible for making Abu Dhabi a thriving economic hub. He is also a key leader and head of the Mubadala Development Company—owned by Abu Dhabi—which is an investment company that works in aerospace, automotives, energy, health care, real estate, telecommunication, and other business sectors.

Humanitarian

Sheikh Mohammed is noted for his philanthropic and humanitarian efforts in charitable giving. He has donated billions of dollars to various causes. For instance, in 2009 Sheikh Mohammed pledged the donation of Dh 4 million for student book purchases at the Abu Dhabi International Book Fair and is constantly engaged in philanthropic and charitable efforts.

Sustainable Development

Sheikh Mohammed has been a champion of sustainable development in Abu Dhabi as an advocate for the implementation of green technologies. He pledged $15 billion for the development of clean energy through solar, wind, and hydrogen power.



23

SHEIKH DR M SA'ID RAMADAN AL BOUTI

Leading Islamic Scholar in Syria

Country: Syria
Date of Birth: 1929
Source of Influence: Scholarly
Influence: Leading scholar for 18.5 million Syrian Muslims
School of Thought: Traditional Sunni

Sheikh Bouti is the leading Islamic scholar in Syria. He is the head of the Theology Department in the faculty of Islamic Law at Damascus University. He preaches very often and is highly respected by many of the leading scholars in the Muslim world.

Traditionalist Scholar

Bouti is the scholar's scholar, and the bulk of his influence comes from his position of respect and authority among the leading thinkers in Islam today. Bouti has significant influence from his position as a central figure in the Muslim scholarly establishment, writing close to 50 books that have garnered considerable critical acclaim.

Passionate Advocate of *Madhabs*

Bouti is a keen supporter of *madhabs* (traditional Islamic schools of law), and is one of the leading critics of the significant movement to abandon these schools. He is particularly influential because this movement has lead to groups in which extremist behavior is condoned as Islamic. Bouti has referred to the abandonment of *madhabs* as the 'most dangerous *bid'a* [innovation] threatening the Islamic *sharia*'. His view is critical because he says it gives those without knowledge the ability to decide what is and is not Islamic.

A Critic of Salafism

Bouti has very important sway over the theological and legal merits of Salafism versus traditional Islam. He has held important debates with leading Salafi scholars and has performed well, highlighting to his audience the importance of knowledge within Islam. In one of his most noteworthy books on this issue—*Jihad in Islam: How to Understand and Practice it*—Bouti shows how a poor understanding of the term *jihad* has led to its abuse by both Muslims and non-Muslims. His view is that those who are unaware of the basis of *fiqh* have manipulated the idea of *jihad* for their own benefit, underlining that *jihad* must be conducted, according to the basis of Islamic *fiqh*.



Sheikh al Bouti, pictured here on left, at a press conference.

24

HIS MAJESTY SULTAN HAJI HASSANAL BOLKIAH MU'IZZADDIN WADDAULAH

Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam

Country: Brunei Darussalam
Date of Birth: 15 July 1946
Source of Influence: Political, Administrative
Influence: Leader of approximately 398,000 citizens of Brunei
School of Thought: Traditional Sunni, Shafi'i

The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, His Majesty Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah is one of the richest men in the world. He is the 29th Sultan of one of the oldest dynasties in existence today. Brunei is a country with a population of approximately 398,000 on the north coast of the island of Borneo in Southeast Asia.

House of Bolkiah

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah descends from the House of Bolkiah, which traces back to Sultan Bolkiah, the fifth Sultan of Brunei (who ruled from 1485-1524 CE). The House of Bolkiah is the longest reigning Sunni Muslim Royal House in Brunei.

Modernizer

Early in his sultanate, Sultan Bolkiah launched the country into a more active role on the global stage by aligning Brunei with the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN). Recently, he has used ASEAN as a vehicle for strengthening relations between Brunei and the region's other countries—through youth and cultural exchange programs as well as dialogue on environmental and economic development. Sultan Bolkiah is also credited with bringing the country in to be a member state of the United Nations.

Administrative Influence

Sultan Bolkiah has been lauded for attempts at slowly democratizing the country's governance, while at the same time consolidating royal authority. Beginning in the early nineties Sultan Bolkiah began trying to strengthen the role of Islam through the notion of *Melayu Islam Beraja* (or Malay Islamic Monarchy). Dating back to 100 CE and established in the 5th century, *Melayu Islam Beraja* links Malay identity, Islam, and the monarchy as an official ideology. Sultan Bolkiah announced the change in philosophy on 1 January 1984, on Brunei's day of independence. Although a small percentage of Brunei's population adheres to religions other than Islam, the official ideology is tolerant and inclusive of non-Muslims. The Sultan is also an important donor to the Organization of the Islamic Conference.



25

HIS EMINENCE PROFESSOR DR SHEIKH AHMAD MUHAMMAD AL TAYEB

President of Al Azhar University

Country: Egypt

Date of Birth: 1946

Source of Influence: Administrative

Influence: Runs the foremost Sunni Islamic university with close to 300,000 students

School of Thought: Traditional Sunni

Sheikh Ahmad Muhammad al Tayeb is the president of Al Azhar University. Prior to being appointed president of Al Azhar University in Cairo, al Tayeb was the most powerful cleric in Egypt as its Grand Mufti for two years before the appointment of the incumbent Sheikh Ali Goma'a.

His scholarly influence as a leading intellectual of Sunni Islam spans the globe. He has served as the dean of the Faculty of Islamic Studies in Aswan, and the theology faculty of the International Islamic University in Pakistan. He has also taught in universities in Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

Runs the Premier University for Sunni Islam

Since 2003 al Tayeb has held the position of president of Al Azhar University in Cairo. He leads the second-oldest university in the world, where teaching has continued without interruption since 975 CE. Al Azhar represents the center of Sunni Islamic jurisprudence. It is a key institution that issues authoritative religious rulings and has provided extensive Islamic education to Egyptian and international students since its inception over a millennium ago. This history makes it a bastion of Sunni traditionalism. The university is considered one of the most prominent Islamic educational institutions, and the foremost center of Sunni Muslim scholarship worldwide.

Administers the Al Azhar Education Network

Al Azhar is the second oldest and currently the largest university in the world, having risen from a group of three schools in the 1950s to its current state with 72 feeder schools, and close to 300,000 students studying there at any one time—if one includes all of its colleges. If you include the entire network of schools internationally, as part of the university's *waqf* efforts there are close to 2 million students. In spite of his huge workload as president, al Tayeb publishes regularly in numerous academic journals, dealing particularly with the reception of Islamic culture and philosophy in the Western world.

Al Tayeb is also a member of the Egyptian Society of Philosophy, the Supreme Court of Islamic Affairs and is the head of the Religious Committee at the Egyptian Radio and Television Union.



26

HIS EMINENCE MOHAMMAD BIN MOHAMMAD AL MANSOUR

Imam of the Zaidi Sect of Shi'a Muslims

Country: Yemen
Date of Birth: 1917
Source of Influence: Lineage, Scholarly
Influence: Imam of approximately 10 million Zaidi Shi'a in Yemen and Saudi Arabia
School of Thought: Traditional Zaidi (Fiver) Shi'a

His Eminence Mohammad bin Mohammad al Mansour is the Imam of the Zaidi branch of the Shi'a sect of Muslims, one of the three main branches of Shi'a Islam. With approximately ten million followers Zaidis constitute almost half the entire population of Yemen, and around 3% in Saudi Arabia.

Lineage in the Imamate
Al Mansour is the current Imam of the Zaidi Muslims, a Shi'a sect named after the followers of Zaid bin Ali, grandson of al Hussein (grandson of the Prophet Muhammad). The sect was formed by the followers of Zaid bin Ali who led an unsuccessful revolt against the Umayyad Caliph Hisham ibn Abd al Malik in 740 CE.

Current Social Influence
In the past decade a Zaidi movement known as the *Shabab al Mumineen* led by Hussein al Houthi has been gaining prominence in the northwest of Yemen. This has stoked some sectarian rivalry in Yemen, between the Zaidi and radical anti-Shi'a groups who are fearful of the resurgence of Zaidi rule in Yemen. Al Mansour has maintained his quietist approach and has respect in Yemeni society. He was influential in stemming the escalation of conflict in 2005.

27

HIS EMINENCE JUSTICE SHEIKH MUHAMMAD TAQI USMANI

Leading Scholar of Islamic Jurisprudence

Country: Pakistan
Date of Birth: 1943
Source of Influence: Scholarly, Lineage
Influence: One of the most senior figures in Islamic finance, and a leading scholar of the Deobandi movement
School of Thought: Traditional Sunni/Deobandi

Justice Sheikh Muhammad Taqi Usmani is a leading scholar of Islamic jurisprudence. He is considered to be the intellectual leader of the Deobandi movement.

Leading Islamic Finance Scholar
Usmani's chief influence comes from his position as a global authority on the issue of Islamic finance. He has served on the boards and as chairman of over a dozen Islamic banks and financial institutions, and currently leads the International Shariah Council for the Accounting and Auditing Organization for Islamic Financial Institutions (AAOIFI) in Bahrain. He is also deputy chairman of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, one of the highest legal bodies in the Muslim world.

Deobandi Figurehead
Usmani is very important as a figurehead in the Deobandi movement—one of the most successful of the Islamic revivalist initiatives of the past century. He was born in Deoband, India, to Mufti Muhammad Shafi (the former Grand Mufti of Pakistan) who founded the Darul 'Uloom Deoband, a leading center of Islamic education in Pakistan.

28

HIS EXCELLENCY ABDULLAH GÜL

President of Turkey

Abdullah Gül is the 11th president of the Republic of Turkey and the first modern Turkish head-of-state from an Islamic background. Facing intense secularist opposition to his political career, Gül has maintained a focus on democratic reform. As prime minister and subsequently as foreign minister, Gül pursued a pro-active foreign policy and largely succeeded in striking a balance between Turkey's traditional Western-anchored foreign policy priorities and its new interests in the Middle East and the Muslim world.

Country: Turkey
Date of Birth:
29 October 1950
Source of Influence: Political
Influence: Leads government of 71.5 million Turkish citizens
School of Thought: Traditional Sunni

Influence through Pragmatic Leadership

Gül's political influence in Turkey and abroad derives from his ability to reconcile the demands of a predominantly religious electorate with those of the entrenched secularism of the Turkish Republic. Together with Erdogan, Gül has worked to expand the sphere of democratic rights in Turkey, which in turn have benefited the predominantly traditional and religious segments of Turkish society. Gül continues to play a significant role in the current efforts to find a lasting solution to Turkey's Kurdish issue. Gül was also the first Turkish politician to visit Armenia.

29

SHEIKH MOHAMMED ALI AL SABOUNI

Scholar of Tafsir

An internationally respected Islamic scholar of *tafsir*, or Qur'anic exegesis, Sheikh Mohammed Ali al Sabouni is widely acclaimed for his short commentaries of the Qur'an.

Country: Syria
Date of Birth: Not Available
Source of Influence: Scholarly
Influence: Significant scholarly influence as the leading contemporary key figure in Qur'anic commentary (*tafsir*)
School of Thought: Traditional Sunni, Hanafi

Popular Commentaries

Al Sabouni is influential because of his easy-to-read, simplified commentaries of the Holy Qur'an, which are the most popular modern commentaries in the world. They are now thought of as some of the most popular short commentaries in history after those of *Jalalayn*, *Baydawi*, *Ibn Kathir* and *Ibn Juzayy*. One of his most influential commentaries is the *Tafsir Ayat Al Ahkam*, an exploration of the Qur'anic verses that pertain to legal rulings.

Traditional Authority

The Institute of Scientific Research and Revival of Islamic Heritage, Umm Al Qura University in Mecca, Saudi Arabia—founded by King Abdul Aziz al Saud as part of the King Abdul Aziz University in 1949—commissioned al Sabouni to investigate the ancient *tafsir* manuscript of Abu Jaafar al Nahas (d. 949 CE/338AH). His landmark achievement of verifying the only surviving manuscript of the text has come to fruition as a six volume work published by the university.

30

HIS EMINENCE SHEIKH ABDULLAH BIN BAYYAH

Deputy-Head of the International Union of Muslim Scholars

Sheikh Abdullah Bin Bayyah's influence is derived from his scholarship, teaching and preaching. Uniquely, all of the different sects and schools of Muslims respect him as a scholar. Testament to this is the notable fact that whilst he is not a Salafi, the Saudi government promulgates his *fatwas* as authoritative. He is an instructor at King Abdul Aziz University in Jeddah and is the deputy head of the Union of Muslim Scholars, under Yusuf al Qaradawi.

Country: Mauritania
Date of Birth: 1935
Source of Influence: Scholarly
Influence: Significant influence as a leading contemporary scholar of Islamic Jurisprudence
School of Thought: Traditional Sunni, Maliki

Diplomat
As a member of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy or *Al Majma' al Fiqhi* of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, Bin Bayyah is at the forefront of the legal arm of a dynamic organization with a permanent delegation to the United Nations.

Author
Having written numerous texts, his scholarly explorations have gone global through speaking engagements that draw crowds of tens of thousands of Muslims. He has spoken at length about the endurance of the Islamic legal tradition and also written extensively on rulings for Muslims living as minorities in foreign lands, or *fiqh al aqaliyaat*.

31

SHEIKHA MUNIRA QUBEYSI

Leader of the Qubeysi Movement

Munira Qubeysi is the head of the largest women-only Islamic movement in the world. It offers Islamic education exclusively to girls and women. Qubeysi commands around 80 schools in Damascus alone, teaching more than 75 thousand students. She is one of the most significant Islamic scholars in the world; her movement focuses on learning the Qur'an and six *Hadith* collections by heart. She is the most influential Muslim woman in the world, albeit in great discretion.

Country: Syria
Date of Birth: 1933
Source of Influence: Scholarly
Influence: More than 75 thousand students in Damascus alone
School of Thought: Traditional Sunni

Female Muslim Order
Qubeysi is influential as the leader of an incredibly successful educational movement. The religious education of women had previously been neglected so the emergence of a female-specific educational initiative has become very popular, making the al Qubaisiat, in numbers, the leading Islamic movement in Syria.

Leading an Islamic Revival in Syria
Qubeysi's influence in Syria is due to the fact that she has been able to grow a very large network of *madrassas* (religious schools) without attracting the criticism of the government, which has traditionally been dubious of large networks of Muslim organizations.

32

SHEIKH AHMAD TIJANI ALI CISSE

Leader of the Tijaniyya Sufi Order

Sheikh Ahmad Tijani Ali Cisse is the spiritual leader of the Tijaniyya Sufi order. The Tijaniyya is the largest Sufi order in Western Africa, and its leader commands a following of close to 100 million people, who see him as their guide to the true Islam.

Country: Senegal
Date of Birth: 1955
Source of Influence: Lineage, Scholarly
Influence: Spiritual leader of around 100 million Tijani Muslims
School of Thought: Traditional Sunni, Sufi, Tijani

Leader of Tijani Muslims

Cisse is based in Senegal, however Tijani Muslims are located throughout Western Africa and further afield. As an order, Tijanis give allegiance to their sheikh giving him significant influence as a leader. Cisse is installed as Imam of the Grand Mosque in Medina Baye, which is one of Western Africa's key positions of Islamic leadership.

Descendant of Ibrahim Al Tijani, Leader of the *Fayda Tijaniyya* (Spiritual Flood)

The Tijaniyya is a Sufi order founded by Ahmad al Tijani Hasani, an Algerian, in the late 18th century. As the spiritual leader of the Tijaniyya, Cisse is considered to be the bearer of a spiritual inspiration called the *Fayda Tijaniyya*, giving him authority to carry on the teachings of Ahmad al Tijani Hasani. Because of this position, some Tijani Muslims refer to him as the reviver of the *sunna*.

33

SHEIKH AL HABIB UMAR BIN HAFIZ

Director of Dar Al Mustafa, Tarim, Yemen

Sheikh al Habib Umar bin Hafiz is well known for his prophetic lineage and status as one of the most influential Sufi scholars alive today. His influence through scholarship and preaching is vast in Indonesia and East Africa. He is also incredibly influential through his leadership of the Ba'Alawi movement.

Country: Yemen
Date of Birth: Not Available
Source of Influence: Scholarly, Lineage
Influence: Runs one of the foremost centers for Islamic education in the world
School of Thought: Traditional Sunni, Shafi'i

Cultivator of Scholarship

Habib Umar founded and runs Dar al Mustafa, a center for traditional Islamic scholarship that currently hosts an array of international students, in Tarim, Yemen. He has joined the ranks of the world's leading Muslim academics and scholars as a signatory of 'A Common Word Between Us and You', a document that builds bridges between the Muslim and Christian community. He has also spoken at Cambridge University on the need for such a dialogue.

Humanitarian

In July 2008, Habib Umar partnered with Muslim Aid Australia as founder of Yemen-based NGO Al Rafah Charitable Society to address issues of poverty and hunger and lack of sufficient health care that affect areas of Tarim.

34

KHALED MASHAAL

Leader of Hamas

Country: Palestine
Date of Birth: 1956
Source of Influence: Political
Influence: Leader of approximately 1000 members in military wing of Hamas
School of Thought: Sunni, Muslim Brotherhood

Current leader of Hamas, a Palestinian sociopolitical organization, and head of its Syrian political bureau, Khaled Mashaal is the international representative for the Palestinian resistance to the Israeli occupation.

Fighter for Social Justice

Since becoming head of Hamas in 2004, Khaled Mashaal has seen the organization through multiple attempts at a roadmap to peace and a major Israeli siege of the Gaza strip, more recently. He is steadfast in his commitment to the Palestinian people and land—a fact that has made him popular throughout the Muslim world. At the same time, Mashaal and Hamas are also controversial; the US, EU and Canada identify Hamas as a terrorist organization.

Pioneering Leader

Mashaal has been recognized for his persistence with Hamas's efforts—at present leading in exile from Syria. His determination is combined with a unique effort at diplomacy. He has shown a willingness to negotiate with Israel to return to the 1967 borders and grant Palestinians a right of return, while importantly implying the necessary existence of the State of Israel, despite Hamas's historic denial of that possibility. He has been one of the most direct, and candid leaders in dialogue and confrontation with Israel and this influence has garnered international recognition.

35

PROFESSOR DR M DIN SYAMSUDDIN

Chairman of Muhammadiyah, Indonesia

Country: Indonesia
Date of Birth: 31 August 1958
Source of Influence: Scholarly, Administrative, Development
Influence: Over 28 million members in the Muhammadiyah, 5,754 affiliate schools, and 5 Islamic universities.
School of Thought: Traditional Sunni

As chairman of the second largest socio-religious organization in Indonesia, as well as a leader of the Indonesian Ulema Council, Din Syamsuddin influences the Muslim world on various fronts.

Social Welfare

The Muhammadiyah is often described as a social welfare entity. Syamsuddin is involved with the health and social welfare efforts of the organization. It runs numerous medical clinics and hospitals across the country.

Leader of Conservative Shift

Syamsuddin is vice general chair of the Indonesian Ulema Council. His opposition to religious pluralism has guided his work, taking the Muhammadiyah on a more conservative track, with an emphasis on *ijtihad* (individual interpretation of the Qur'an) and *Hadith* (accounts of practices of the Prophet Muhammad).

Reformist

Syamsuddin has recently extended scholarships for students to study at the Muhammadiyah universities in Indonesia.

36

MAULANA MAHMOOD MADANI

Secretary General of Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind, India

Country: India
Date of Birth: Not Available
Source of Influence: Scholarly, Political, Administrative
Influence: 10 million Muslims are members of Madani's *Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind*
School of Thought: Traditional Sunni, Deobandi

Maulana Mahmood Madani, a leading Islamic scholar and politician in India, has gained influence for his forthright condemnations of terrorism and unfaltering support of the Indian Muslim community.

Religio-Political Heavyweight

Madani has served as secretary general of the *Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind*, or Organization of Indian Scholars—one of the most prominent Islamic organizations in India. Madani has been outspoken in his opposition to the misuse of the term *jihad* as a tool of terrorism in India. Following fatal bomb blasts in 2008, he and others of the *Darul Uloom Deoband* institution hosted events condemning terrorism as inherently un-Islamic.

Defender of the Faith

As a respected political leader and Islamic scholar of India, Madani represented the *Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind* and the esteemed community of scholars at Deoband when he addressed the Pakistani government, and Pakistani High Commissioner Shahid Malik in particular, in an open letter regarding his remarks in December 2008 at the UN Security Council about terrorism stemming from 'mullas in Deoband'. As a firm opponent of terrorism, he is steadfast in his advocacy of non-violence.

37

SHEIKH HABIB 'ALI ZAIN AL ABIDEEN AL JIFRI

Director General of the Tabah Foundation, UAE

Country: United Arab Emirates
Date of Birth: 16 April 1971
Source of Influence: Scholarly, Lineage, Philanthropy
Influence: Globally influential through his teaching endeavors in Yemen and across the world
School of Thought: Traditional Sunni, Shafi'i, Ash'ari, Ba'Alawi Sufi

Tracing back his lineage to the family of 'Ali, the fourth Caliph of Islam and cousin of the Prophet Muhammad, Sheikh Habib 'Ali Zain al Abideen Al Jifri is a leading Islamic scholar and prominent speaker across the Muslim world. He is Director General of the Tabah Foundation in the UAE, member of the board of Dar al Mustafa in Yemen, member of the Royal Aal al Bayt Institute for Islamic Thought in Jordan, and affiliated with various other international Islamic organizations.

Sufi Guide

As a Ba'Alawi Sufi, al Jifri is part of a tradition that has been based in Yemen for approximately 800 years and traces back to the Prophet Muhammad. He is influential as a Sufi spiritual guide in the Muslim world, and Dar al Mustafa is an influential Islamic educational institution in Yemen.

Educator

Al Jifri founded the privately-funded philanthropic organization Tabah Foundation for Islamic Studies and Research in Abu Dhabi, a young non-profit institution that aspires to become a formidable source of reputable work in Islamic research and thought.

38

SHEIKH HAMZA YUSUF HANSON

Founder of Zaytuna Institute, United States of America

Country: United States
Date of Birth: 1960
Source of Influence: Scholarly
Influence: Leading Islamic authority in a country with 4.6 million Muslims
School of Thought: Traditional Sunni, Maliki, Asha'ri

Sheikh Hamza Yusuf Hanson is the Western world's most influential Islamic scholar. He is seen as one of the foremost authorities on Islam outside of the Muslim world, having spent a decade learning at some of the premier institutions in the Islamic world. He runs the incredibly successful Zaytuna Institute in California.

American Scholar
Hanson is fundamentally an American scholar. His popularity, and accordingly his influence, stem from the fact that although his knowledge of Islamic scholarship is comparable to that of important scholars in Muslim countries, his application of it is rooted in the lived experience of a normal American. In his speeches he is able to relate Islamic teachings in a way that American Muslims find easy to understand.

Educator
Hanson is one of the founders of the Zaytuna Institute. This institute is one of the most well respected centers of Islamic education in North America. It has been groundbreaking in combining cutting edge educational technologies with traditional Islamic education—setting the standard for Islamic education in the West. Hanson has built a huge grassroots following, particularly among young western Muslims.

39

HIS EMINENCE SHEIKH PROFESSOR DR MUSTAFA CERIC

Grand Mufti of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Country: Bosnia and Herzegovina
Date of Birth: 1952
Source of Influence: Administrative, Scholarly
Influence: Grand Mufti of approximately 2.3 million Bosnian Muslims
School of Thought: Traditional Sunni

Mustafa Ceric is a guiding light for Islam in Europe and the leading Islamic authority; he became Grand Mufti of Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1993. He is outspoken on interfaith work in the Muslim world and considered one of the most influential Muslim leaders of our time.

Cross-Cultural Advocate
In 2006, Ceric issued the 'Declaration of European Muslims' to the European Union stating that European Muslims are dedicated to the common values of law, tolerance, democracy and human rights, the value of life, faith, freedom, property, and dignity. In May 2009 Ceric stood against warnings of possible violent protest by visiting Serbia and spoke at a sermon in the town of Tutin about the need for Bosnian and Serbian Muslims to unite as one entity.

Peace Activist
Ceric joined the International Religious Advisory Council of the Tony Blair Faith Foundation in 2008, committing himself to its mission of promoting respect and religious pluralism through discussions on social injustices.

40

HIS EXCELLENCY PROFESSOR DR EKMELLEDIN IHSANOGLU

Secretary General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference

Country: Turkey
Date of Birth: 1943
Source of Influence: Administrative, Political
Influence: Leader of an organization comprised of 57 primarily Muslim-majority states
School of Thought: Traditional Sunni

Ihsanoglu is secretary general of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC)—the largest intergovernmental Muslim organization in the world, and the second largest public organization after the United Nations. Ihsanoglu has revitalized the organization and is currently implementing a 10 year program of action to meet the challenges facing the global Muslim community in the 21st century.

Voice for the Muslim World
Ihsanoglu is also influential in that he leads the only pan-Islamic intergovernmental organization in the world. The OIC often has more influence over certain issues than other organizations do, and can have a key role to play in world events—being more inclusive than the Arab League and also able to tackle specific injustices that the United Nations Security Council cannot.

Reviving the OIC
The OIC had been seen as a dysfunctional organization until recently when it has had a radical overhaul of its practice, and aims. Under the leadership of Ihsanoglu the organization's remit has widened from its previously staple issues of Islamic solidarity towards more immediate humanitarian concerns of economic and social deprivation around the Muslim world, making the organization more akin to the United Nations in its work.

41

GENERAL MOHAMMAD ALI JAFARI

Commander of the Revolutionary Guard, Iran

Country: Iran
Date of Birth: 1957
Source of Influence: Political, Administrative
Influence: Leader of 100,000 permanent troops and close to 300,000 reservists
School of Thought: Traditional Twelver Shi'ism, Revolutionary Shi'sm

General Mohammad Ali Jafari is the Chief Commander of the Iranian Army of the Guardians of the Islamic Revolution (also known as the Revolutionary Guard), an elite faction of the Iranian armed forces—separate from the army—that reports directly to the *Velayat-e Faqih*.

Enforcer of Islamic Revolution
The Revolutionary Guard came into existence as a set of revolutionary fighters loyal to Imam Khomenei—the leader of the Iranian Revolution of 1979. He effectively runs a state within a state with its own, considerable resources and a certain degree of independence from Supreme Leader Khamenei. The Revolutionary Guard also exerts influence through funding and directing Shi'a movements abroad such as Hezbollah, and the Mahdi Army. Because of this, Jafari has a significant degree of control in Iraq.

Political Power
Jafari commands a force of close to 400,000—with a potential strength of up to 11 million if circumstances require. Jafari's influence is due to his popularity with younger troops who make up a disproportionately large segment of the population.

42

DATO' HAJI NIK ABDUL AZIZ NIK MAT

Religious Guide of the Islamic Party of Malaysia

Country: Malaysia
Date of Birth: 1931
Source of Influence: Administrative, Political, Scholarly
Influence: Spiritual leader of largest Islamic political party in Malaysia
School of Thought: Traditional Sunni

Dato' Haji Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat is a Malaysian politician, an Islamic scholar and the current chief minister of the State of Kelantan. He holds the position of *Mursyidul Am*—the religious guide—within the Pan-Malaysian Islamic Party (PAS).

Scholarly Influence over Malaysian Politics
As the religious guide of the Pan-Malaysian Islamic Party, Nik Mat is the spiritual leader of Malaysian Islamic politics and holds very important sway over the tenor of politics in the nation. His advocacy of *sharia* law to be applied to all Malay Muslims has, however, drawn criticism, especially his suggestion that women would be at a lower risk of being raped if they abandoned wearing lipstick.

Political Importance in Malaysia
Nik Abdul Aziz's fundamentalist party has close to one million members and enjoys strong support from the northern rural and conservative states such as Kelantan and Terengganu. Nik Mat is the chief minister of the Kelantan state, the only one of Malaysia's thirteen states that is not ruled by the governing coalition.

43

MOTIUR RAHMAN NIZAMI

Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami, Bangladesh

Country: Bangladesh
Date of Birth: 31 March 1943
Source of Influence: Political, Administrative
Influence: Political and religious guide to Bangladesh's nearly 140 million Muslims
School of Thought: Traditional Sunni

Leader of the third largest political party and the largest Islamic political party in Bangladesh—*Jamaat-e-Islami*—Motiur Rahman Nizami has played an active role in pushing the mission of the organization through political and social reforms and propagating Islamic educational initiatives.

Nizami and the *Jamaat* have also been a subject of controversy. Their opponents in Bangladesh accuse them of collaborating with the Pakistani army in the 1971 war for Bangladesh's liberation in which on Dec. 14, known as Intellectual Killing Day in Bangladesh, many of Bangladesh's top intellectuals/scholars were killed.

Political Activist - Nizami is a champion of democratic organization within the *Jamaat-e-Islami* as well as in the governance of Bangladesh. A core principle of the *Jamaat-e-Islami* is the need for Islam to be the guidepost in politics and the belief that the government should implement Islamic ideals to maintain the cultural and religious values of Bangladesh.

Humanitarian - Nizami has also been an advocate of educational reforms—following threats to remove religious education by the new government—as well as calling out instances of state-sponsored terror. In light of the *Jamaat-e-Islami* objective to bring peace to Bangladesh, Nizami has called for a list of immediate needs to be addressed by the government, from adherence to environmental regulations to shortages in gas, water, and electricity.

44

PROFESSOR SAYID AMEEN MIAN QAUDRI

Barelwi Leader and Spiritual Guide

Country: India
Date of Birth: Not Available
Source of Influence: Administrative, Scholarly
Influence: Approximately 2 million *Barkatiya* Barelwis worldwide
School of Thought: Traditional Sunni, Hanafi, Sufi

Professor Sayid Ameen Mian Qaudri is leader of the Indian Barelwis and a *sajjada nashin*, or Sufi disciple of the *Barkatiya* Sufi tradition which stems from the Qadiriyyah tradition of eminent Sufi master, 'Abd al Qadir al Jilani (1077-1166 CE).

Counters Violence with Social Engagement
A missionary movement, the Barelwis of the South Asian subcontinent have spread their message within the region and also among diaspora communities in Europe, North America, and South Africa. Centered on elevation of the last Prophet Muhammad as the perfect person who is ever-present, this group is distinct from Deobandi Muslims—who practice a more conservative brand of Islam and criticize the Sufi group as illicit innovators of Islam.

Leader of Important Sufi Movement
Qaudri is professor of Urdu language at India's esteemed Aligarh Muslim University and also leader of a South Asian Sufi movement based in a volatile region where religion has been used as a platform for violence—despite this, it thrives as an active and socially engaged mystical movement. The Barelwis are an apolitical group that emphasizes social cohesion and spiritual upliftment.

45

HIS HOLINESS DR SYEDNA MOHAMMAD BURHANNUDDIN SAHEB

The 52nd Daʿi l-Mutlaq of the Dawoodi Bohras

Country: India
Date of Birth: 6 March 1915
Source of Influence: Administrative
Influence: 1 million Dawoodi Bohras
School of Thought: Traditional Ismaili Shi'a, Dawoodi Bohra

Mohammad Burhanuddin is the 52nd *Daʿi l-Mutlaq*, and leader of the Dawoodi Bohra community, which stems from the Ismaili Shiʿa sect of Islam. As leader of the Bohras, he has been influential in the fields of education and the development of community institutions in Mumbai, India and across the globe.

Absolute Missionary
Mohammad Burhanuddin was appointed to be *Daʿi* of the Dawoodi Bohras by his father who was the previous *Daʿi l-Mutlaq*, or absolute missionary. Burhanuddin succeeded his father, upon the latter's death, when he was 53 years of age. The Dawoodi's are the main branch of the Bohras, a Musta'li subsect of Ismaʿili Shiʿa Islam. The subsect is based in India although the Dawoodi Bohra school of thought originates from Yemen.

Community Development
Mohammad Burhanuddin has been widely recognized by governmental and non-governmental organizations for promoting peace in the world. He is noted for the construction of numerous mosques, mausoleums, and community structures for the Dawoodi Bohras in various parts of the world and particularly in Yemen.

46

DR ABDUL QADEER KHAN

Pakistani Nuclear Scientist

Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan is the father of the 'Islamic Bomb', being the scientist who brought nuclear technology, and nuclear weapons technology to Pakistan. Pakistan was the first—and remains the only—Muslim country to have nuclear weapons.

Country: Pakistan
Date of Birth: 1 April 1936
Source of Influence: Science and Technology, Political
Influence: Gave nuclear technology to 170 million Pakistanis
School of Thought: Traditional Sunni

Scientific and Technological Influence

Khan is viewed with adoration by a large proportion of the Pakistani population for founding the country's nuclear program and introducing nuclear science and technology to the Muslim world. His work in helping establish the Pakistani nuclear program in the 1970s has made him a figure of great international interest. He has continued to use his financial success and stature to improve the quality of education, building educational institutions around Pakistan.

Political Influence

Khan's work has had very important political implications internationally, turning a conflict between old rivals India and Pakistan into a potential war between nuclear powers. Khan also may have had more far reaching political influence through his alleged attempts to sell nuclear technology to Libya, Iran, and North Korea.

47

PROF. DR SEYYED HOSSEIN NASR

Islamic Philosopher

Seyyed Hossein Nasr is an Islamic Studies professor at George Washington University. He remains one of the most influential Muslim scholars in the world for his work on the Islamic tradition and philosophy.

Country: United States
Date of Birth: 7 April 1933
Source of Influence: Scholarly
Influence: Written major books and given countless lectures
School of Thought: Traditional Shi'a

Reviver of Tradition

Nasr's work has covered the most important areas of contemporary Muslim thought from classical Islamic philosophy, Islamic science, Sufism, and critique of modernity to interfaith relations, Islam-West relations, and the environmental crisis. Nasr is the first Muslim scholar invited to give the prestigious Gifford Lectures, which were later published as *Knowledge and the Sacred.*

Islamic Environmentalism

Nasr's work has been ahead of his time in predicting the disastrous consequences of the environmental crisis. Books such as *The Encounter of Man and Nature: The Spiritual Crisis of Modern Man* (1968), and *Religion and the Order of Nature* (1996), narrate the rise of a secular, modern conception of nature as inert matter to be conquered by modern technology, and attempt to revive a sacred notion of nature.

48

ABDULLAH 'AA GYM' GYMNASTIAR

Indonesian Preacher

Country: Indonesia
Date of Birth: 30 February 1962
Source of Influence: Scholarly
Influence: Regular audience of over 80 million Indonesians, approval rating of close to 90%
School of Thought: Traditional Sunni in a modern style

Abdullah Gymnastiar, more commonly known as Aa Gym (Elder Brother), is Indonesia's most popular preacher. He has built an incredible following and a media empire with his style of modern, youthful, enjoyable preaching. His popularity has waned recently with news that he took a second wife.

Indonesia's Televangelist
His energetic and unique approach to everyday life as a Muslim and his messages of self-control, personal morality, tolerance and faith have made him a household name, giving him a regular audience of around 80 million Indonesians. Gymnastiar is both preacher and performer. In his events, Gymnastiar, a young charismatic, attractive man, makes jokes, smiles, tells stories and then sings *nasheed* (religious songs) accompanied by lights, dry ice, and a band.

Reformer
His style has been revolutionary in Indonesia where people are more used to stolid older men preaching to them, and young Indonesians have been keen to soak up his particular brand of religious teaching. His use of SMS text messaging to transmit religious teachings is also groundbreaking; drastically altering the expectations Indonesians have of their preachers and the sway those preachers have over their lives.

49

SHEIKH MEHMET NAZIM ADIL AL QUBRUSI AL HAQQANI

Leader of Naqshbandi-Haqqani Sufi Order

Country: Cyprus
Date of Birth: 25 April 1922
Source of Influence: Lineage, Scholarly
Influence: Leader of sizeable worldwide Sufi order
School of Thought: Traditional Sunni, Naqshbandi Sufi

As Sufi master and leader of the Naqshbandi-Haqqani order, Sheikh Mehmet Nazim Adil al Qubrusi is influential as one of the highest ranking Sufi spiritual guides and traces his lineage back to the prominent Sufis 'Abd al Qadir al Jilani (1077-1166 CE) and Jalal al Din Rumi (d. 1273 CE).

Stalwart Missionary
Al Haqqani's travels have taken him to meet with students and followers of the Naqshbandi Sufi order across the globe. This order, which traces its spiritual lineage back to Prophet Muhammad's companion Abu Bakr, is one that practices silent remembrance of God. He has a great deal of influence with Muslims around the globe, having spent time with the Muslim communities in the former Yugoslavia, the United Kingdom, the United States, Syria, and Uzbekistan—where the tomb of the founder of the Naqshbandi Sufi order is located.

Guide to Royalty
Al Haqqani has ministered to the Sultan of Brunei, Sir Sultan Hamengkubuwono X of Indonesia, and members of the Malaysian Royal Family. He is credited for the growing popularity of the Naqshbandi order, which reaches millions through his followers.

50

HIS EXCELLENCY
DR ABD AL AZIZ BIN 'UTHMAN ALTWAIJIRI

Secretary General of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

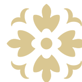
Country: Morocco
Date of Birth: 3 April 1950
Source of Influence: Development, Administrative
Influence: Head of largest Islamic educational organization
School of Thought: Traditional Sunni

Secretary General of the Islamic Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, His Excellency Dr Abd al Aziz bin 'Uthman Altwaijiri has exercised his influence by promoting educational development for OIC member states.

Educational Influence
Through his leadership with ISESCO, Altwaijiri has engaged in work with Muslim institutions in Europe, Asia and Latin America having established the Supreme Council of Education, Science and Culture; an alliance designated for work outside of the Islamic world.

Voice of Diplomacy
Altwaijiri, as a spokesman for ISESCO, has categorically condemned acts of terrorism from the bomb blasts on a mosque in South East Iran to suicide attacks in Pakistan's North West Frontier Province in 2009. On US President Obama's inaugural visit to the Middle East, Altwaijiri extended a gesture of willingness to develop positive relations between the US and the Muslim world toward tolerance and the cause of justice.

HONORABLE MENTION



The following 12 leaders merit an honorable mention in the 450 list for accomplishments in their respective fields that place them amongst the most significant Muslims in the world. They command influence almost comparable to those in the Top 50. They deserve mention here:

ELLISON, REP. KEITH — UNITED STATES
Political — **p.111**
Ellison is the first Muslim to serve in the US Congress. His role has been historic from the moment of his swearing-in ceremony, when he used a Qur'an formerly owned by Thomas Jefferson, to his substantial advocacy work lobbying for improved relations between the US and the Muslim world.

FAYYADH, H.E. GRAND AYATOLLAH MOHAMMAD ISHAQ — IRAQ
Scholarly — **p.91**
Grand Ayatollah Mohammad Ishaq Fayyad is the second most authoritative *marja* of Najaf, Iraq and one of four leading *marjas* of the Hawza Seminary—making him one of the most influential Twelver Shi'a jurists in the world.

HASSOUN, H.E. SHEIKH DR AHMAD BADR AL DIN — SYRIA
Scholarly — **p.93**
Sheikh Hassoun garners influence from his senior position as the Grand Mufti of the Republic of Syria. He has used his platform of authority, being one of the foremost Sunni leaders in the Levant, to vocally support interfaith dialogue and the importance of civil, as opposed to religious, rule in governance.

IBRAHIM, H.E. DR ANWAR — MALAYSIA
Political — **p.107**
Anwar Ibrahim, leader of the Malaysian opposition, is credited for dramatically changing the political landscape of the country as former finance minister and subsequently, former deputy prime minister of Malaysia. He has been an outspoken critic of Prime Minister Mahathir bin Mohamad's administration, and now garners increasing influence for his liberal political stance and popularity with young Malaysians.

ISLAM, YUSUF — UNITED KINGDOM
Arts and Culture — **p.153**
Yusuf Islam is not only a global icon for his work in the arts, both before and after his conversion to Islam, but he has launched landmark educational and philanthropic initiatives from his platform of international prominence. His diverse fan-base grants him far-reaching influence.

AL MAHDI, H.E. IMAM SAYYED AL SADIQ SUDAN
Lineage **p.123**
Uniquely situated on this list as the single most influential Sudanese leader who derives influence from his lineage—his great grandfather, Muhammad Ahmad, claimed to be the *Mahdi*, or messianic figure in Islamic eschatology—Imam Sayyed al Sadiq al Mahdi is also Imam of the al Ansar sufi order and president of the moderate Islamic Umma Party.

MATTSON, INGRID UNITED STATES
Women **p.131**
Ingrid Mattson is increasingly influential as the first woman and first convert elected to be president of the Islamic Society of North America. She is also the director of the first accredited Muslim chaplaincy program in the United States.

AL QADRI, DR MUHAMMAD TAHIR PAKISTAN
Development **p.142**
Dr Muhammad Tahir al Qadri is the founder and spiritual leader of Minhaj-ul-Qur'an, a Pakistan-based organization that runs bridge-building and educational initiatives in over 100 countries. He was a student of Tahir Allauddin al Qadri al Gillani (d. 1991), a noted scholar and descendent of the Prophet Muhammad.

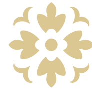
RAMADAN, TARIQ SWITZERLAND
Scholarly **p.99**
Tariq Ramadan is a leading European intellectual who is influential as a reformist Muslim academic and a prolific writer on Islam. He is an outspoken proponent for the development of a 'European Islam' and a distinct religious identity for Muslims living in Europe.

SWEIDAN, SHEIKH DR TARIQ KUWAIT
Media **p.158**
Tariq Sweidan is the CEO and owner of Gulf Innovation Group in Kuwait and the general manager of Al Resalah Satellite TV. An entrepreneur and a TV personality—his shows ranking among the highest in the Middle East—Sweidan is also prominent as a motivational speaker and for his books on Islam.

YUNUS, MOHAMMAD BANGLADESH
Development **p.142**
Issues of the Day **p.168**
Mohammad Yunus is a Nobel Peace Prize recipient and innovative thinker in Islamic financing—having founded the Grameen Bank; a pioneering effort in microfinance and community development banking aimed at developing a bank crediting system for the rural poor.

WINTER, TIMOTHY (SHEIKH ABDUL-HAKIM MURAD) UNITED KINGDOM
Scholarly **p.100**
Winter is Britain's leading Muslim scholar, and also the individual who is most well respected by theologians in the Muslim world. He has written on various topics from British Muslim history, through theological discourse to social issues. Winter teaches theology at Cambridge University. His advice is frequently sought on the issue of Muslims in Britain.

THE LISTS



THE LISTS
CONTENTS

The following 450 leaders are categorized by their diverse fields of work and appear unranked. The Top 50 are not listed except in International Islamic Networks and Issues of the Day.

SCHOLARLY

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

ALGERIA

CHERIF, H.E. AMBASSADOR PROF. DR MUSTAFA

Mustafa Cherif, a former ambassador of Algeria, is a philosopher and researcher specializing in international relations and dialogue between cultures. Co-founder and co-chair of the Muslim Christian Friendship in France and the Mediterranean, Cherif has written numerous works on religion, civilization and dialogue between cultures.

BAHRAIN

AL MOHMOOD, PROF. ABED AL LATEEF

Abed al Lateef Mohmood is a university professor and the chairman of the Bahrain Islamic Bank's *sharia* supervisory board. A prominent cleric, Mohmood is the president of the Islamic Society of Bahrain and was the head of the Arabic Language and Islamic Studies Department at the University of Bahrain from September 2001 to 2005.

YAQUBY, NIZAM

Nizam Yaquby is one of the most respected scholars of Islamic finance and sits on many advisory boards including HSBC Amanah. A highly sought-after expert with an immense breadth of experience with the Muslim community of Bahrain, Yaquby received the Annual Islamic Finance Summit's Outstanding Contribution to Islamic Finance Award.

EGYPT

AL ʿAWA, SHEIKH DR MOHAMMED SALIM

Mohammed Salim is the secretary general of the International Union of Muslim Scholars and the head of the Egyptian Association for Culture and Dialogue. He is also a founder of Egypt's moderate Islamic political party Al Wasat and regularly appears on Egyptian television and on the Al Jazeera channel.

EZZAT, DR HEBA RAOUF

Ezzat is an activist and a professor of politics in Egypt and writes on issues concerning Islam, modernity and human rights. A member of the World Economic Forum's Council of 100 Leaders initiative for Islamic-Western understanding, Ezzat is also a co-founder of IslamOnline and consults on many contemporary issues facing the Muslim world.

KAHLAWI, PROF. DR ʿABLA MOHAMMED

Kahlawi is the dean of Islamic and Arabic Studies at Al Azhar University Women's College. She is a senior authority on issues of specific concern to women, and the head of one of the most well respected centers for Muslim women's scholarship in the world. She speaks regularly in Arabic media on issues of concern to women and young people.

SHUQAIR, PROF. DR HASAN JABR HASAN

Shuqair is the dean of the Islamic Da'wa School at the Al Azhar University in Cairo—the second oldest university in the world, founded in 975 CE. The school is the main body for training missionaries of the Al Azhar University; the foremost educational institution in Sunni Islam.

SCHOLARLY

IRAN

AMOLI, HIS EMINENCE GRAND AYATOLLAH ABDULLAH JAWADI

Grand Ayatollah Amoli is a leading theologian and interpreter of the Qur'an. He is a prolific scholar having published over 300 articles and books. He is most well-known for his commentary of the Qur'an the *Tafsir al Tasnim,* which has been lauded by his peers. He has remained a very public figure throughout his career, having led a diplomatic mission to the USSR, and he continues to speak publicly on current affairs.

DAMAD, HIS EMINENCE AYATOLLAH PROF. DR SEYYED MOSTAFA MOHAGHEGH

Damad is one of the very few high-level clerics in Iran to have been educated in international law in the West. Damad is a forceful advocate for a more progressive interpretation of *sharia.* He is a very well respected scholar, dean of the Department of Islamic Studies at The Academy of Sciences of Iran, and a professor of Law and Islamic Philosophy at Tehran University.

SHIRAZI, HIS EMINENCE GRAND AYATOLLAH NASIR MAKARIM

Grand Ayatollah Shirazi is a leading theologian teaching at the seminary in Qom, one of the two most important centers of learning for Twelver Shi'a. He is most influential for his *Tafsir al Amthal*, which is a very popular simplified commentary of the Qur'an. He has also spearheaded the creation of schools and magazines devoted to young people.

SOROUSH, ABDOLKARIM

Soroush is a well-known figure in the religious intellectual movement in Iran. His writings were essential reading during the time of the Iranian Revolution in 1979, though they have since become more important outside Iran than inside. He remains a public intellectual who criticizes the Iranian government from a modernist religious perspective.

YAZDI, HIS EMINENCE AYATOLLAH MOHAMMAD TAGHI MESBAH

Yazdi is the director of the Imam Khomeini Education and Research Institute. He is one of the key players in Qom; the center of Shi'a learning in Iran, and his writings are immensely influential in Iranian political and religious circles.

IRAQ

FAYYADH, HIS EMINENCE GRAND AYATOLLAH MOHAMMAD ISHAQ

Grand Ayatollah Fayyad, originally from Afghanistan, is one of the four *marjas* of the Hawza Seminary in Najaf, Iraq. The Hawza is one of the two most important seats of learning in Twelver Shi'ism. He is well respected amongst the Shi'a population of South Asia. Of the four *marjas* only Grand Ayatollah Ali al Sistani outranks him in terms of influence. He is known for his quietist approach to politics.

HAKIM, HIS EMINENCE GRAND AYATOLLAH MOHAMMED SAID

Grand Ayatollah Hakim is one of the four *marjas* of the Hawza Seminary in Najaf, Iraq, and accordingly is one of Iraq's most important Shi'a clerics. His family is very prominent in Iraq, holding key positions in Shi'a social and religious organizations and also in government. He leads around 5% of the Iraqi Shi'a population. His influence stems partly from his relationship to Grand Ayatollah Mohsen al Hakim; a former religious leader of the Twelver Shi'a in Iraq.

NAJAFI, HIS EMINENCE GRAND AYATOLLAH ALI

Grand Ayatollah Najafi is one of the four *marjas* of the Hawza Seminary in Najaf, Iraq, and one of Iraq's most powerful Shi'a clerics. As a *marja* of the Hawza in Najaf, Iraq's premier Shi'a institution, Najafi holds a position of immense authority. Najafi, originally from Pakistan, holds less sway amongst Iraq's population than the other *marjas* but has significant clout in South Asia.

IRAQ

AL SADR, HIS EMINENCE AYATOLLAH AL FAQIH SEYYED HUSSEIN ISMAIL

Ayatollah al Faqih Seyyed Hussein Ismail Al Sadr is the most senior Shi'a religious cleric in Baghdad, Iraq. He heads the Ayatollah Seyyed Hussain Ismail Al Sadr Foundation Trust, which runs humanitarian, development, and peace and reconciliation projects in Iraq. His role as a social leader and humanitarian has increased significantly during the recent hostilities in Iraq.

JORDAN

AL ABBADI, HIS EXCELLENCY ABDUL SALAM

Al Abbadi is the current secretary general of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy, based in Saudi Arabia. The academy is the highest legal authority of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, and the highest non-sectarian Islamic legal authority in the Muslim world. He is a professor of Islamic jurisprudence, and former president of the Aal al Bayt University.

AL QUDAH, HIS EMINENCE SHEIKH DR NUH ALI SALMAN

Al Qudah is currently the Grand Mufti of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and has held other notable positions in the past including Chief Islamic Justice of Jordan. He is formerly a religious leader in the Jordanian army with the rank of Major General in 1992.

AL SAQQAF, SHEIKH SEYYED HASAN

Al Saqqaf is Director of Dar Al Imam Al Nawawi, an Amman-based publishing and distribution organization.

LEBANON

FADLALLAH, HIS EMINENCE GRAND AYATOLLAH SAYEED MOHAMMAD HUSSEIN

Grand Ayatollah Fadlallah is Lebanon's highest Shi'a religious authority. He has reached the status of *marja taqlid*—the highest scholarly status in Usuli Twelver Islam. He has an important popular following among the Shi'a in Lebanon and has founded several orphanages, schools, Islamic centers and religious schools including Lebanon's Islamic Sharia Institute.

QABBANI, HIS EMINENCE DR MOHAMMAD RASHID

Mohammad Rashid Qabbani is the Grand Mufti of Lebanon and therefore the country's leading Sunni scholar. He speaks out regularly against sectarianism and violence.

LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA

NAYED, PROF. DR AREF ALI

Nayed is an important scholar in the field of Christian-Muslim relations. He is a former professor at the Pontifical Institute for Arabic and Islamic Studies (Rome), a former professor at the International Institute for Islamic Thought and Civilization (ISTAC, Malaysia), and a senior advisor to the Cambridge Interfaith Program at the Faculty of Divinity in Cambridge, UK.

MOROCCO

ABDUL-RAHMAN, DR TAHA

Abdul-Rahman is a Moroccan philosopher famous for his work in trying to create an ethical humanistic modernism on the basis of the ethics and values of Islam. He has taught logic in Muhammad V University for over 30 years. He has won the Moroccan Book Prize twice, and was awarded the ISESCO Prize for Islamic Philosophy in 2006. He is the president of the Wisdom Circle of Thinkers, Morocco, and a member of the International Union of Muslim Scholars.

MOROCCO

AZZOUZI, PROF. DR ABDELHAQ

President of CMIESI, the Moroccan Center for Interdisciplinary International and Strategic Studies. CMIESI is a significant organization working in innovative ways to address issues of concern whether they be social, geopolitical, diplomatic, or political.

AL MURINI, DR AL JILANI

Al Murini is a professor at Sidi Mohammad bin Abdullah University in Fez. He is an expert on Islamic Philosophy and Muslim Spain and speaks at numerous international conferences on these topics.

PALESTINE

AL TAMIMI, HIS EMINENCE JUSTICE SHEIKH DR TAYSEER RAJAB

Al Tamimi is a leading scholar and chief Islamic justice of Palestine. He is the head of the Palestinian Center for Religion and Civilization Dialogue. He is popular as an outspoken thinker and leader on Palestinian-Israeli relations.

SAUDI ARABIA

AL QARNI, DR AAIDH

Dr Aaidh al Qarni is a prominent Saudi scholar, author, and activist preacher, best known for his popular self-help book *Don't Be Sad* (*La Tahzan*), which has sold millions of copies around the world. Dr al Qarni has over 800 Islamic audio lectures and is a prolific writer and preacher for tolerance.

AL SAFFAR, SHEIKH HASAN MUSA

Hasan Musa al Saffar is a Saudi Shi'a reformist leader who has made significant progress in communicating with Salafi leaders and other senior officials in Saudi Arabia. This is important as sectarian tensions throughout the Muslim world have risen with the increased Sunni-Shi'a hostilities in Iraq.

SYRIA

AL BIZM, HIS EMINENCE DR ABDUL-FATTAH

Al Bizm is the Grand Mufti of Damascus and the director of the Al Fatih Islamic Institute, Syria. The Al Fatih Islamic Institute is one of the leading educational institutes in Syria. Al Bizm teaches law at the institute and has cited the environment as a central responsibility for Muslims.

BUGHA, MUSTAFA

Bugha is a famous Syrian religious thinker, and jurist. He was formerly a lecturer at the respected al Fatih Islamic Institute in Damascus before moving to Jordan.

HASSOUN, HIS EMINENCE SHEIKH DR AHMAD BADR AL DIN

Hassoun is the Grand Mufti of the Republic of Syria. He graduated in *sharia* studies at Al Azhar in Egypt—the second oldest university in the world, founded in 975 CE. Hassoun was mufti of Aleppo until the death of Ahmed Kuftaro in 2004. He is an advocate of interfaith dialogue, and is very vocal in his opinion that states should be ruled on a civil rather than religious basis, believing that secularism is not synonymous with atheism, a sentiment that holds great sway in Syria's religiously diverse society.

TUNISIA

ENNAIFER, H'MIDA

Ennaifer is a key player in worldwide efforts towards better Muslim-Christian relations. He is a lecturer in Muslim theology at the Higher Institute of Theology at the Zeituna University in

Tunisia. He is also the president of the Islamic-Christian Research Group. His interfaith work centers on theological similarities between the faiths.

EAST AFRICA

ETHIOPIA

IDRIS, HIS EMINENCE HAJJI OMAR

Omar Idris is a mufti and leader in Ethiopian Muslim politics. A proponent of Muslim unity, he is the current chair of the Addis Ababa Majlis and also the chair of the Addis Ababa Ulema Unity Forum.

UGANDA

MAMDANI, MAHMOOD

Mamdani is the Herbert Lehman Professor of Government in the Departments of Anthropology and Political Science at Columbia University in the United States. Mamdani is also the director of Columbia's Institute of African Studies. He is a former president of the Council for Development of Social Research in Africa in Dakar, Senegal. He is well known for his recent book *Good Muslim, Bad Muslim: America, the Cold War, and the Roots of Terror*, which became significant in liberal policy circles in US politics.

WEST AFRICA

BURKINA FASO

DOKORI, DR ABU BAKR

Abu Bakr Dokori is the president of the Islamic University of Ouagadougu. He is a major scholar and advisor to the Republican President. Dokori is also Burkina Faso's representative to ISESCO. He is one of the leading Muslim scholars in a country with around 7 million Muslims.

COTE D'IVOIRE (IVORY COAST)

DAMBOLI, SHEIKH MOHAMMAD

Mohammad Damboli is an Imam and one of the most prolific Islamic missionaries in the Ivory Coast region.

GAMBIA

JAH, HIS EXCELLENCY AMBASSADOR PROF. DR OMAR

Jah is an important figure in the Muslim community of Gambia and in Gambian scholarship on Islam. Jah was the former Gambian ambassador to Saudi Arabia. He is now the secretary of the Muslim Scholars Council, Gambia; and a professor of Islamic Civilization and Thought at the University of Gambia where he is the dean of the humanities faculty.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICA

ESACK, PROF. FARID

Esack is a professor at the University of Johannesburg in South Africa, but was formerly a visiting professor at the Harvard Divinity School. He was active in the struggle against apartheid, forming the Muslim group Call of Islam. After the end of apartheid rule in South Africa Nelson Mandela appointed him to the position of Gender Equity Commissioner. In 1996, he wrote a seminal work on Islamic liberation theology.

SOUTH AFRICA

HENDRICKS, SHEIKH SERAJ

Hendricks is the Mufti of Cape Town. He is a leading scholar on Sufism in South Africa, and a patron of Dome Publications. He is seen as one of the highest authorities on Islamic scholarship for South Africa's large and affluent Muslim population.

MOOSA, PROF. EBRAHIM

Moosa is a scholar of Islam at Duke and Stanford universities, he wrote for *Arabia: The Islamic World Review,* MEED (Middle East Economic Digest), later becoming a political writer for the Cape Times in South Africa

CENTRAL AMERICA

EL SALVADOR

QATTAN, DR AHMAD

Qattan is a Muslim convert from Palestinian origins. He is the co-founder of the Arab Islamic Center in Salvador. Qattan has been an educator and *da'wa* activist for the past 17 years, and has published more than 100,000 copies of a book introducing Islam, which has been read by an estimated 250,000 people.

MEXICO

ROJAS, ISA

Rojas is a *da'wa* activist and author of numerous articles about Islam in Spanish and French. He is also a student of religion at Al Madina University, Saudi Arabia. Around 4 million people or more have read his articles and translations that are published on various Islamic websites. He is one of the writers and editors at Islamweb.net.

SOUTH AMERICA

ARGENTINA

GARCIA, PROF. MUHAMMAD ISA

Garcia was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina. He studied Arabic language and Islamic studies and theology at Umm Al Qura University in Mecca. He is a specialist in the origins of prophetic traditions. Garcia has translated numerous books, with many only available to a Spanish-speaking readership in his translation. He is also the author of a series named 'Know Islam.'

CHILE

TORRES, SHEIKH ISMAIL

Ismail Torres is a distinguished sheikh and *da'wa* activist in Chile. The Muslim community in Chile remains a small but growing pocket in South America, with communities particularly in Santiago, Temuco and Iquique.

COLOMBIA

AL COLOMBI, DAWOOD ABDL GHAFUR

Al Colombi is one of the most well respected Muslim scholars in Colombia. He is the most active and influential *da'wa* activist in Colombia, being present at the conversions of over 1000 people. He is the founder of a mosque in the city of Pereira and of the Centro Cultural Islamico Colombian's *da'wa* project. He hosts conferences and awareness lectures for Muslims and non-Muslims, and he is acknowledged for his talent for conveying the principles of Islam to non-Muslims. He is also the author of several articles in Spanish and has created the only library of Islamic books in Colombia.

ECUADOR

DASSUM, DR LAYLA

Dassum is the vice president and co-founder of the Islamic Centre of Ecuador and the director of the Muslim Ladies Committee. A well-known *da'wa* activist in Ecuador, Dassum hosts conferences and awareness lectures locally and internationally and teaches women about Islam and the Qur'an. Dassum has also represented her country in many conferences in the Islamic world.

ASIA

AZERBAIJAN

IBRAHIMOGLU, ILGAR

Ibrahimoglu is a charismatic young Islamic scholar and human rights activist, who is the head of a pro-Iranian Shi'a congregation in Baku. He received his religious education in Qom, Iran, but also studied human rights in Poland. This combination of Islamic and secular education is attractive for a population that was only recently part of the Soviet Union.

PASHAZADE, SHEIKH UL ISLAM HAJI ALLAHSHUKUR HUMMAT

Pashazade is not only the Grand Mufti of Azerbaijan, but also the Mufti by election of the whole Caucasus region—though the latter is largely a vestige of Soviet organization of religious leaders. He is also the world's only Sunni-Shi'a Grand Mufti, giving each group *fatwas* according to their relevant *madhab*, reflecting Azerbaijan's Sunni-Shia mix.

BRUNEI

HADDAD, GIBRIL

Haddad is a well-known scholar and religious leader of Lebanese-American background. He has emerged as one of the clearest voices of traditional Islam in the West. A scholar and translator of classical Islamic texts, Haddad converted to Islam while in his undergraduate years and then travelled to Damascus to pursue his studies. A prolific author and a *Hadith* expert, Haddad has translated and published over 30 works including *Allah's Names and Attributes* by Imam al Bayhaqi and *The Prophet's Night Journey and Heavenly Ascent* by Sheikh Muhammad ibn `Alawi al Maliki.

BIN JUNED, HIS EMINENCE DR USTAZ HAJI AWANG ABD AZIZ

Bin Juned is the state mufti of Brunei. He is a well-respected scholar that advises the government and the royal family on matters of faith.

AL MAHDALI, ABD AL HAMID

Al Mahdali is a leading scholar of Islamic theology at the Sultan Sharif Ali Islamic University (UNISSA), which is the main university for Islamic scholarship in Brunei. He is also a public intellectual who has been invited all over Brunei to speak about Islam.

INDIA

ENGINEER, ASGHAR ALI

Engineer is a Dawoodi Bohra Ismaili. He is the leader of the progressive Dawoodi Bohra movement. He is a prominent scholar of Islam who is famous for his take on Islam and contemporary issues. He has written many books and published articles in many international journals. He is the founding chairman of the Asian Muslim Action Network, and of the Institute of Islamic Studies, and the Center for the Study of Society and Secularism.

KHAN, WAHIDUDDIN

Khan has been called 'Islam's spiritual ambassador to the world'. Khan aims to teach about Islam as a spiritual way of life, an approach that is popular among Indians, both Muslim and non-Muslim. He established the Islamic Center in Delhi in 1970, and has written over 200 books since.

SCHOLARLY

INDONESIA

AZRA, AZYUMARDI

Azra is a distinguished Indonesian scholar who has taught in numerous universities around the world. He is a prominent academic—publishing numerous books and articles. Besides being an advisor to the Indonesian vice president, he is an informal diplomat for Indonesia, particularly in presenting Indonesia's experience of Islam and democracy as a speaker in conferences. He is also a member of the Advisory Board of the United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF), New York (2006-present). A regular column in a national newspaper 'Republika' bolsters his influence with the Indonesian public.

MAARIF, SYAFII

Maarif is one of Indonesia's most famous scholars whose political comments regularly attract significant attention. This former president of the influential Muhammadiyah organization is actively involved in the interfaith and peace movements both domestically and internationally. Maarif is also a professor of history at National University of Yogyakarta, and a productive author and columnist currently writing two regular columns in 'Republika' newspaper and also in GATRA magazine.

MALAYSIA

BAKAR, PROF. DR DATO OSMAN

Bakar is a Malaysian academic who is widely respected and critically acclaimed in both the Muslim and non-Muslim world. His books have been translated into numerous languages. He has also published books with many of the leading global experts on Islam and interfaith relations. He has served as the vice chancellor of the University of Malaysia, a position that enables him to exert a considerable amount of pressure in Malaysian academia. Bakar was also the first holder of the Chair of the Philosophy of Science at the University of Malaysia. He is one of the founding members and has also served as president of the Islamic Academy of Science of Malaysia. He has also been awarded the honorary title of Dato.

KAMALI, PROF. DR MOHAMMAD HASHIM

Kamali is the world's leading expert and author on Islamic law and modern law and comparison between them. He is one of the most prolific producers of quality scholarship on Islam in the world today. Originally from Afghanistan, he is a dean and professor at the International Institute of Islamic Thought and Civilization (ISTAC) and the International Islamic University in Malaysia.

PAKISTAN

AHMED, DR ISRAR

Ahmed is the founder of Tanzeem-e-Islami. He is a well-respected figure among the Muslim populations of Pakistan, the Middle East, and North America—known specifically for his efforts to bring educated Muslims towards the teachings of the Qur'an. He believes in a 'dynamic' conception of Islam with the ultimate objective of establishing a 'true' Islamic state. Ahmad has a daily show on satellite channel Peace TV, has written over 60 books, and has been lauded by the State of Pakistan for his work.

ANSARI, ZAFAR ISHAQ

Ansari is the director general of the Islamic Research Institute of the International Islamic University of Islamabad. The Islamic Research Institute is one of the premier centers for research in the Islamic sciences. Formerly he served as president of the university, and remains vice president. He is on the editorial board of a number of the most influential academic journals on Islam. He is a member of an international scientific committee set up by UNESCO to supervise the writing of a six-volume series on Islamic culture. He is the co-editor of the first volume.

PAKISTAN

RAHMAN, ATTA-UR

Atta-Ur Rahman is the coordinator general of the OIC's COMSTECH—the Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation for the promotion and cooperation of science and technology activities among the OIC member states—and former Pakistani federal Minister for Science and Technology, chairman of the Higher Education Commission and president of the Pakistan Academy of Sciences. He is the first Muslim scientist to win the UNESCO Science Prize, in 1999.

SINGAPORE

KASSIM, USTAZ IBRAHIM

Ibrahim Kassim is one of Singapore's most respected Islamic scholars. A judge of the *Sharia* court in Singapore and the sheikh of the Chistiyyah Sufi tariqah in Singapore, Kassim is deeply involved in the rehabilitation of Jemaah Islamiyah members that are under detention for plotting terrorist attacks in Singapore. This rehabilitation work has garnered international attention as a model for the reintegration of suspected terrorists that could be replicated in other countries.

SALLEH, MAAROF

Salleh is the director general of the Center for Contemporary Islamic Studies. This center is an interdisciplinary organization where people can exchange ideas on issues facing the Muslim community. It also does considerable interfaith work. He is also the former head of the Islamic Religious Council of Singapore.

UZBEKISTAN

YUSUF, HIS EMINENCE SHEIKH MUHAMMAD SODIQ MOHAMMAD

Yusuf is the leading authority on Islam in Uzbekistan. He was the former Grand Mufti of the Muslim Spiritual Administration of Central Asia, and the first Mufti of Uzbekistan in the post-Soviet era. He is one of the most popular writers on Islam in the whole of Central Asia and Russia. He has studied in Libya and has written a popular commentary on the Qur'an.

EUROPE

ESTONIA

HARSINOV, HIS EMINENCE AHMED

Ahmed Harisnov is the Mufti of Estonia. He has campaigned for the right of Estonia's Muslims to have their own mosque. He also carries out important work as a public figure assuring the country's Christian population that Muslims are a peaceful people. Islam has been present in Estonia for over 100 years, but apprehension about Islam has grown since September 11, 2001, putting the spotlight on figures such as Harsinov.

BELGIUM

MICHOT, YAHYA M

Yahya M Michot is a Belgian professor of Islamic studies and Christian-Muslim relations at the Macdonald Center at the Hartford Seminary. In addition to working as a consultant for several universities and international organizations, Michot was president of the Higher Council of Muslims in Belgium from 1995-1998.

FRANCE

BENCHEIKH, SHEIKH SOHAIB

Bencheikh is a theologian and the modernist Mufti of Marseilles, and one of the most influential social leaders and scholars in French Islam. Marseilles is a cosmopolitan city with a huge population

of Muslims with North African ancestry. Bencheikh is a passionate advocate for integration of the Muslim population, writing and speaking about ways to integrate this population

GERMANY

HOFFMANN, HIS EXCELLENCY AMBASSADOR DR MURAD

Hoffman is an author and Muslim intellectual, respected by both Muslims and non-Muslims. He is a prominent former German diplomat and author, writing several books on Islam, including *Journey to Makkah* and *Islam*. Many of his books and essays focus on Islam's place in the West and in the United States—the latter in particular after September 11, 2001.

KÖHLER, AYYUB AXEL

Köhler is chairman of the Central Council of Muslims in Germany. Ayyub Axel Köhler has numerous articles primarily in Islamic magazines such as 'Al Islam' of the Islamic Center of Munich, and 'Al Fajr' of the Islamic Center of Hamburg and has published newsletters for the Muslim League in which he is mostly concerned with the integration of Islamic ways of life into German society.

SWITZERLAND

RAMADAN, TARIQ

Ramadan is Europe's preeminent Muslim intellectual writing about Islam in public life. He is a professor of Islamic Studies at Oxford University and formerly a visiting professor at the Erasmus University in Rotterdam. He has a weekly television show, 'Islam and Life', on Press TV, and is an advisor to the European Union on religion. He has written 15 books and produced over 100 recordings.

TURKEY

KARAMAN, PROF. DR HAYRETTIN

Karaman is one of the most prominent scholars of Islam in Turkey, and the preeminent scholar of Islamic law there. He publishes extensively with popular and academic output. He also writes a weekly column in the newspaper 'Yeni Safak' (New Dawn). His high regard comes from his long career in academia. At the pinnacle of his career he was a dean at Turkey's premier university, Marmara University. He left this position at the height of the headscarf controversy in 2001.

SEZGIN, PROF. DR FUAT

Sezgin is the world's leading authority on the history of science and technology in the Muslim world. Sezgin established the Institute of Arabic-Islamic Sciences at the Johann Wolfgang Goethe University in Frankfurt, Germany, where he is the director. The institute houses the most comprehensive collection of texts on Islamic science in the world. Sezgin is uniquely respected by Muslim and non-Muslim academics for his work in this field.

UNITED KINGDOM

QURESHI, KHAWAR

Khawar Qureshi QC is one of the world's leading experts on public international law. He was the youngest advocate ever to have appeared before the International Court of Justice in 1993 for Bosnia's genocide case against Yugoslavia. He was a legal adviser to the Bosnian government during the Dayton Peace Talks. He remains the vice chairman of the International Committee of the Bar Council of England and Wales.

SHAH-KAZEMI, DR REZA

Shah-Kazemi is an author specializing in comparative mysticism. He publishes regularly with an interfaith perspective, looking at imperatives for dialogue and tolerance in Islam and other religions. His focus has been on Sufism and Shi'ism. He is the founding editor of the World Islamic Report. He also publishes on public policy and international relations.

UNITED KINGDOM

WINTER, TIMOTHY (SHEIKH ABDUL-HAKIM MURAD)

Winter is Britain's leading Muslim scholar, and also the individual who is most well respected by theologians in the Muslim world. He has written on various topics from British Muslim history, through theological discourse to social issues. Winter teaches theology at Cambridge University. His advice is frequently sought on the issue of Muslims in Britain.

OCEANIA

AUSTRALIA

ALY, WALEED

Aly is an Australian academic, lawyer, and Muslim community leader. He is a frequent and authoritative commentator in the media on Australian Muslim affairs. He currently works as a lecturer at the Global Terrorism Research Centre at Monash University, Melbourne. He was invited to participate in the 'Australia 2020 Summit' hosted by the Australian prime minister in 2008.

EL IMAM, SHEIKH FEHMI

El Imam is one of Australia's most senior Islamic scholars and leaders. As the founder of Victoria's Islamic community, he has had a major influence on the development of Islam in Australia. He is secretary general of the Victorian Board of Imams. He is also senior imam at the Preston Mosque in Melbourne's northern suburbs.

NORTH AMERICA

CANADA

KUTTY, SHEIKH AHMAD

Sheikh Kutty is senior lecturer and imam at the Islamic Institute of Toronto and a non-resident imam and *khateeb* (person who gives a sermon) at the Islamic Center of Canada, Bosnian Islamic Center, and Ansar Mosque. He is often featured as guest speaker in events on interfaith dialogues and has written extensively on Islamic law.

EL MASRY, DR MOHAMMAD

El Masry is professor emeritus at the University of Waterloo and founder and former president of the Canadian Islamic Congress. He has written extensively about engineering issues but is most famous for his contributions in the media about Islam and the Palestinian conflict. El Masry's website (www.islamnow.com) has received over 30,000 unique visitors.

RABBANI, SHEIKH FARAZ

Sheikh Rabbani is the educational director and instructor at SeekersGuidance.com, an educational website featuring online lectures. He was formerly affiliated with SunniPath and 'Islamica Magazine', and served as president of the University of Toronto Muslim Students Association from 1994 to 1996. SunniPath has approximately 10,000 views a day.

UNITED STATES

ABDULLAH, UMAR FARUQ

Abdullah is an American convert to Islam who founded and now directs the Nawawi Foundation, which is a Chicago-based non-profit organization that educates Muslims in the US about Islamic teachings, and conducts research on Islam in America.

UNITED STATES

ABOU EL FADL, DR KHALED

Abou El Fadl is a leading authority on Islamic law and an Omar and Azmeralda Alfi Professor at UCLA Law. He often acts as an expert witness in international litigations involving Middle Eastern law and was appointed by President George W. Bush to the US Commission on International Religious Freedom. His work is widely read by American Muslim youth.

AHMED, HIS EXCELLENCY AMBASSADOR AKBAR SALAHUDDIN

Ambassador Ahmed is Ibn Khaldun Chair of Islamic Studies at the American University in Washington, D.C. and Chair of Middle East and Islamic Studies at the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis. He is also a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution. He is a prolific author, policy advisor, and expert on contemporary Islam with particular influence in American foreign policy circles.

AL ALWANI, DR TAHA JABER

Al Alwani is an active academic and organizer in the international community of Sunni Muslim scholars. He is the president of The Graduate School of Islamic and Social Sciences, at the Cordoba University in; the president of The Fiqh Council of North America; a member of the OIC's International Islamic Fiqh Academy; and a former president of US office of the International Institute of Islamic Thought. He is also the author of acclaimed works, such as: *Source Methodology in Islamic Jurisprudence*; *Towards a Fiqh for Minorities*; T*he Ethics of Disagreement in Islam*; *Ijtihad*; and *The Quran and the Sunnah: The Time-Space Factor*. He is also a senior fellow of the Aal al Bayt Institute for Islamic Thought in Jordan.

AYOUB, DR MAHMOUD

Ayoub is a faculty associate in Shi'a Islam and Christian-Muslim relations at the Hartford Seminary. He has published over 50 scholarly articles, and has written numerous books on Muslim history.

DELORENZO, SHEIKH YUSUF TALAL

DeLorenzo is the chief sharia officer at Sharia Capital and has served as a *sharia* advisor to over 20 global financial providers. He is a key player in a rapidly growing market helping set up the Dow Jones Islamic Markets Index and authoring the leading English-Arabic Islamic banking guide used by financial institutions.

ESTES, SHEIKH YUSUF

Yusuf is a well-known Muslim preacher who lectures all over the world. He is the former national Muslim chaplain for the US Bureau of Prisons and uses technology, such as uploading lectures on the Internet and appearing on television to spread Islam in an easily understood manner. His website has close to seven million unique hits.

AL ISLAM, AMIR

Al Islam is a distinguished lecturer of African-American history and Islam and World Civilisation at City University New York, Medgar Evans College in Brooklyn. He has led and participated in a number of summits and organizations, working with institutions such as the United Nations and the Vatican. He is chairman of the board of the Inner-City Muslim Action Network.

KABBANI, SHEIKH MUHAMMAD HISHAM

Kabbani is the founder and chairman of the Islamic Supreme Council of America, the chairman of the American Muslim Assistance relief organization, the founder of Kamilat, an international Muslim women's organization, the chairman of the As Sunnah Foundation of America, and the founder and president of 'Muslim Magazine'. He is a spiritual teacher of the Naqshbandi-Haqqani Sufi order.

UNITED STATES

KELLER, SHEIKH NUH

Keller is a scholar and specialist in Islamic law. He holds the distinction of writing the first Islamic legal work in a European language to receive certification from Al Azhar—the second oldest university in the world, founded in 975 CE. He possesses a number of *ijazas* in Islamic jurisprudence, and teaches students from all over the world.

NYANG, SULAYMAN S

Nyang is a professor of African Studies at Howard University, writing extensively on Islam in Africa. He is a former deputy ambassador and head of chancery at the Gambian Embassy in Saudi Arabia, and a former consultant to several national and international agencies.

SACHEDINA, PROF. ABDULAZIZ

Sachedina is a well-respected scholar on Shi'ism and relations between Islam and the West. He is also a highly regarded thinker on the relationship between Shi'a Islam and governance, and was an advisor on the drafting of the constitution of Iraq that was put into effect in 2005. He teaches at the University of Virginia on topics as varied as classical Islam, Islamic bioethics, and also democracy and human rights.

SHAKIR, IMAM ZAID

Shakir is an influential Islamic scholar currently affiliated with the Zaytuna Institute. He founded Masjid al Islam in Connecticut, founded the Tri-State Muslim Education Initiative and the Connecticut Muslim Coordinating Committee.

SIDDIQUI, PROF. DR MUZAMMIL H

Professor Siddiqui is chairman of the Fiqh Council of North America. He is a prolific lecturer, adjunct professor of Islamic Studies, director of the Islamic Society of Orange County Mosque, with around 7,000 members, and is the former president of the Islamic Society of North America. He is very active in interfaith efforts and the author of a weekly column on Islamic law.

JACKSON, SHERMAN

Jackson is an Arthur F Thurnau Professor of Arabic and Islamic Studies at the University of Michigan and a writer on Islam in the African-American community. He is the co-founder of the American Learning Institute for Muslims and is featured on the Washington Post-Newsweek blog 'On Faith'.

POLITICAL

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

ALGERIA

BOUTEFLIKA, HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT ABDELAZIZ

Bouteflika is the incumbent president of Algeria, and a long-term politician in Algeria. He has been president for close to a decade, since he won elections in 1999. During his ten years of presidency he has succeeded in ending a civil war that ran throughout the nineties, that was one of the bloodiest civil unrests in the Muslim world. Peace was reached through a process of reconciliation and amnesty that was strongly supported by the Islamist and Nationalist belligerents.

HADDAM, ANWAR N

Haddam is the president and co-founder of the Movement for Liberty and Social Justice (MLJS). He was elected to the Algerian parliament under the Islamic Front for Salvation in 1991. A leading activist, he is an initiator and signatory of the National Contract for a Peaceful and Political Solution to the Algerian Crisis.

EGYPT

MUBARAK, HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT MUHAMMAD HOSNI

Muhammad Hosni Mubarak is the fourth and current President of the Arab Republic of Egypt. Trained as a fighter pilot in the 1960s and 1970s, he was appointed by then-president Sadat as vice president in 1975, becoming the vice chairman of the National Democratic Party (NDP) in 1978. He has effective control over all aspects of Egyptian government. Egypt is one of the cultural hubs of the Islamic world, and is host to a number of historically significant institutions, not least of which is Al Azhar University—the second oldest university in the world, founded in 975 CE—making Egypt a notable soft power player in the Muslim world. The choice of Cairo for Obama's speech to the Muslim world was not accidental.

EL ZAYAT, MUNTASIR

Muntasir el Zayat is the secretary general of the Egyptian Bar Association and currently the lawyer of the exiled Egyptian cleric Hassan Mustafa Osama Nasr. He is said to have also been the lawyer for the Al Qaeda leader Ayman al Zawahiri.

IRAN

AHMADINEJAD, HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT MAHMOUD

Ahmadinejad is president of Iran and a former University of Science and Industry lecturer in Iran. He supported the Iranian Islamic Revolution and was a founder of the students' union that occupied the US Embassy. He served as governor of Arbadil province and mayor of Tehran. Becoming president he has enfranchised the politics of the nation's large conservative, working class population, which makes him incredibly influential. Doing so, he also marginalized Iran's rising middle class, a fact that curtails his actual influence on Iranian society.

JALILI, SAAED

Jalili is secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council and the chief Iranian nuclear negotiator. The nuclear issue is central to both Iranian domestic politics—nuclear technology has become somewhat of a goal for Iran—and international geopolitics, as many countries, particularly Israel and the US, are wary of further nuclear proliferation. He was brought in after former negotiator Ali Larajani resigned. His role is pivotal in the future security of the Islamic Republic and the success of the peaceful use of nuclear power in Iran.

IRAN

KHATAMI, HIS EXCELLENCY MOHAMMAD

Mohammad Khatami is a reformist politician who served as president of Iran from 1997 to 2005. Although he was ineffective at bringing around many of the changes that were sought in Iranian society present in his mandate, he remains a figurehead of the reformist movement. He was elected to the first Majles al Shura. Khatami is known internationally for his proposal in 2000 to the UN termed 'Dialogue Among Civilizations'; a movement he hoped would counter the prevailing sentiment that there was a 'Clash of Civilizations'.

MONTAZERI, HIS EMINENCE GRAND AYATOLLAH HOSSEIN ALI

Grand Ayatollah Hossein Ali Montazeri has been an outspoken critic of the Islamic Republic of Iran's foreign and domestic policy. A religious and political heavyweight, he is an advocate of transparent governance, and has been an activist of civil and women's rights in Iran. He has a popular following among the large reformist movement in Iran.

MOUSAVI, HIS EXCELLENCY MIR-HOSSEIN

Mousavi is a leading reformer who has served as Iran's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Prime Minister from 1981 to 1989. A painter and architect, Mousavi was the leading political opposition candidate in Iran's contested presidential elections of 2009. His candidacy was unsuccessful but brought about some of the most significant political protest and social upheaval that has been seen in Iran since the revolution of 1979.

RAFSANJANI, HIS EXCELLENCY AYATOLLAH ALI AKBAR HASHEMI

Ayatollah Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani is a reformer who has served as president of Iran. He currently holds the position of head of the Expediency Council, a position designed to settle disputes between the Iranian parliament and the Council of Guardians. It is one of the most senior positions in Iranian politics as the Expediency Council has the power to sack the Supreme Leader.

TASKHIRI, HIS EMINENCE AYATOLLAH MOHAMMAD-ALI

Ayatollah Taskhiri is a religious cleric and also a diplomat. He is Iran's go-to man for dialogue with the Sunni world. He became an increasingly significant figure after the US-led invasion of Iraq in 2003, dealing with the ongoing sectarian disputes there. Taskhiri was born in Iraq and maintains a strong connection with Iraq's Shi'a organizations. He currently holds the position of director of the Islamic Culture and Communications Organization in Iran.

IRAQ

DARI, HARITH

Dari is the current leader of the Sunni Ulema Union, the largest association of Sunni Muslim scholars in Iraq. He is a key figure in the movement to expel foreign troops from Iraq, and has given religious sanction to many of the controversial tactics of insurgents, such as kidnapping, arguing that there is historical precedent for such practices.

LEBANON

HARIRI, HIS EXCELLENCY SAAD RAFIC

Saad Rafic Hariri is the prime minister designate of Lebanon. He is a Lebanese businessman and the son of the late Prime Minister Rafic Hariri. Since his father's assassination he has assumed presidency of the Future Movement. He entered parliament in 2005, and remains one of the most prominent leaders of the March 14th group.

LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA

GADDAFI, HIS EXCELLENCY COLONEL MUAMMAR

Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, also known as Brother Leader of the Revolution of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has been a central figure in the life of Libya since he seized power there in a bloodless coup in 1969. His stature and longevity in global politics, as well as a significant endowment to the World Islamic Call Society (Jamiat al Da'wa al Islamiya), make him one of the most influential people in the world proselytizing for Islam. He is a key figure in Africa, as chairman of the African Union, the leader of one Africa's key *da'wa* movements, and was named King of African Kings at a summit of Africa's royalty.

PALESTINE

ABBAS, HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT MAHMOUD

Abbas, also known as Abu Mazen, is a co-founder of Fatah, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization and president of the Palestinian National Authority. Considered a moderate, he advocated negotiations with Israel and initiated dialogue with Jewish and pacifist movements in the 1970s. Much was expected of his presidency of the Palestinian National Authority and his lack of ability to offer any significant progress has diluted his influence both as a political leader and as a peacemaker. However his position ensures that he remains a central figure in global politics.

HANIYAH, ISMAIL

Haniyah is a senior political leader of Hamas and one of two disputed prime ministers of the Palestinian Authority, a matter under political and legal dispute. After being dismissed by President Mahmoud Abbas, Haniyah continued to exercise prime ministerial authority in the Gaza Strip. Haniyah is a popular figure able to broaden the appeal of Hamas in Gazan politics.

SUDAN

AL BASHIR, HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT OMAR

Al Bashir is the current president of Sudan and head of the National Congress Party. He came to power in a coup in 1989 and has since instituted elements of *sharia* law throughout the country, including in Christian and animist areas. The ICC issued an arrest warrant for al Bashir in 2009, indicting him on five counts of crimes against humanity (murder, extermination, forcible transfer, torture and rape) and two counts of war crimes (pillaging and intentionally directing attacks against civilians).

SYRIA

AL ASSAD, HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT BASHAR

Al Assad is an Alawite Shi'a and president of the Syrian Arab Republic. He has broad appeal as a leader of a predominantly Muslim country through a number of reforms that he instituted. He changed the law soon after taking office to allow the wearing of hijab in public schools. He also began to allow soldiers to pray in mosques. Assad has also made an increasing amount of references to Syria's Islamic heritage in official speeches, signaling that Islam is not as feared as it once was by the Syrian government.

TUNISIA

BACCOUCHE, HIS EXCELLENCY PROF. DR HEDI

Dr Hedi Baccouche is former Tunisian Prime Minister (1987-1989). He has since gone on to become a vocal figure in promoting dialogue, and in criticizing any interaction based on violence and division. He was formerly the leader of the nationalist Neo-Destour Party, then party director of the Destourian Socialist Party during the 1980s.

GHANNOUSHI, RACHID

Ghannoushi has influenced Tunisian politics since the 1980s when he founded the Renaissance

Party. The Renaissance Party is an Islamic political party whose principles and ideals have been widely accepted by Tunisians. He continues to lead the party in exile in London, and writes prolifically. Although seen as a radical in Tunisia he is respected throughout the world as a proponent of Islamic democracy.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

AL NAHYAN, HIS HIGHNESS SHEIKH KHALIFA BIN ZAYED

Al Nahyan is the president of one of the fastest growing nations in the world, the United Arab Emirates. He has significant power over the direction that the Emirates go in and has very clear opinions about Islam's role in the economic development of the UAE, saying that women are accorded the right to work where they please as long as they are accorded the right respect.

MIDDLE AFRICA

CHAD

BICHARA, AHMAT ISMAEL

Bichara is a 29-year-old Islamic spiritual leader. He is an influential figure with a small army of followers. He was arrested in 2008 for threatening to launch a holy war against Christians and atheists from Africa to Europe. Sixty-six of his followers were killed in a battle with Chad's armed forces.

DEBY ITNO, HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT IDRISS

Deby is the president of Chad and the head of the Patriotic Salvation Movement. He took power in 1990, leading a predominantly Muslim army. Muslims make up around 55 percent of Chad's 11 million people. He holds great domestic authority through his ability to consolidate power in Chad. Chad was previously affected by a high frequency of coup d'états.

EAST AFRICA

SOMALIA

AHMED, HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT SHEIKH SHARIF SHEIKH

Ahmad is the ninth president of Somalia and former commander in chief of the Islamic Courts Union—a previously militaristic organization that had significant control over the country, which has now reformed into a Somalian political party. He was educated in *sharia* in Sudan and Libya. He is a *Hafiz al Qur'an* and the spiritual leader of the Idriseeyah order of Sufi Islam in Somalia.

AWEYS, SHEIKH HASSAN DAHIR

Aweys is an influential Somali leader. He is a Salafi and the former head of the Shura Council of the Islamic Courts Union of Somalia. In April 2009 Aweys returned to Somalia declaring a war on the African Peace Keeping Forces (AMISOM). Although marginalized from mainstream Somali politics he continues to enjoy significant support from the Al Shabbab resistance movement in Somalia.

WEST AFRICA

MALI

TOURÉ, HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT AMADOU TOUMANI

Touré is the president of Mali. Mali has a 95 percent majority of Muslims. He overthrew the military ruler, Moussa Traoré in 1991, then handed power to civilian authorities the next year. He won the presidential elections in 2002, with a broad coalition of support and was easily re-elected in 2007.

NIGERIA

YAR'ADUA, HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT UMARU MUSA

Yar'Adua is the president of Nigeria, a country with an estimated 74.6 million Muslims. He served as governor of Katsina State in northern Nigeria from 1999 to 2007, where in 2000, during his administration, Katsina became the fifth northern Nigerian state to adopt *sharia* (Islamic law). He was declared the winner of the controversial Nigerian presidential election held on 2007. He is a member of the ruling People's Democratic Party (PDP).

ASIA

AFGHANISTAN

KARZAI, HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT HAMID

Hamid Karzai was elected as president of Afghanistan for a full five-year term in September 2004, becoming the first directly-elected president in the country's history. Karzai has been able to build up considerable support from the Afghans and under his presidency, Afghanistan's economy has been growing rapidly for the first time in many years. His administration does however suffer from widespread allegations of corruption.

MOJADDEDI, HIS EXCELLENCY SIBGHATULLAH

Mojaddedi served as the first president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan after the fall of the communist regime in 1992, and is currently the president of the Meshrano Jirga (Upper House), head of the Afghanistan National Independent Peace and Reconciliation Commission, for which he is widely respected by pro- and anti-government parties, and is also the leader of the Afghan National Liberation Front.

AZERBAIJAN

ALIYEV, HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT ILHAM

Aliyev is the current president of Azerbaijan and the chairman of the New Azerbaijan Party. Although not outwardly religious, he is a Muslim and his advocacy of a moderate cultural Islam is representative of the demands of the population of the country. Azerbaijan, with a population of approximately 7.5 million Muslims is an active member of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

INDONESIA

WAHID, HIS EXCELLENCY ABD AL RAHMAN (GUS DUR)

Wahid is a former president of Indonesia, the long time president of the 30 million strong *Nahdlatul Ulama* Islamic social organization, and the founder of the National Awakening Party. He was a cleric and social organizer before entering politics to become the first elected president of Indonesia after the fall of Suharto. Significantly he has strong relations with the country's military elite, developed before taking office while working on interethnic relations. He is against the formation of an Islamic state in Indonesia, which he believes would be problematic for national cohesion.

YUDHOYONO, HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT SUSILO BAMBANG

Yudhoyono is the political leader of the most populous Muslim country in the world. He is the president of the Republic of Indonesia. He was also a nominee for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006 for his success in peace-building efforts in Aceh. His political party, the Democratic Party, is the winner of the recent April 2009 general election by a 20.8% vote.

MALAYSIA

IBRAHIM, HIS EXCELLENCY DR ANWAR

Ibrahim is a Malaysian politician of global stature. He is the former deputy prime minister of Malaysia, former finance minister and is currently the leader of the Malaysian opposition coalition.

He is well known for his liberal Islamic stance on politics, and is incredibly influential as a leader and role model for young people.

MALAYSIA

MOHAMMAD, HIS EXCELLENCY DR MAHATHIR

Mohammad was Malaysia's longest-serving prime minister and has been credited with engineering Malaysia's rapid modernization and spearheading the phenomenal growth of the Malaysian economy. Mahathir is known for his outspoken attitude towards the West, especially the US, and was highly critical of George Bush's actions against Iraq.

PAKISTAN

AHSAN, BARRISTER CHAUDHRY AITZAZ

Ahsan has been a vocal opponent of President Pervez Musharraf's rule. When Musharraf dismissed the head of the Supreme Court in March 2007, Ahsan led the legal challenge to reinstate the chief justice. He organized a protest of thousands of lawyers. Today, he is a senior member of the Pakistan Peoples Party (the largest political party in Pakistan), formerly led by Benazir Bhutto, and is one of the country's most recognizable politicians.

KAYANI, GENERAL ASHFAQ

Kayani is the Pakistan Army's Chief of Staff. He has immense influence as the Islamic Republic of Pakistan's leading military figure. He has particular influence currently as the country undergoes continued unrest with significant amounts of power in the hands of non-government-controlled militia, and the federal government finds ways to regain control.

PHILIPPINES

MISUARI, NUR

Nur Misuari is a revolutionary leader of the Bangsamoro and began his campaign for better treatment of the people of Mindanao by the Manila government through the Mindanao Independence Movement (MIM) in the 1970s, which later became the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF). Under Misuari's leadership, the MNLF challenged the government until the Tripoli Agreement was negotiated in 1976.

SINGAPORE

RASHEED, HIS EXCELLENCY ZAINUL ABIDIN

Rasheed is the Senior Minister of State for Foreign Affairs for Singapore and the mayor of the North Eastern district of Singapore. Rasheed's activities have a focus on Singapore's diplomatic relations with the Muslim world, and also on sharing knowledge about Singapore's experience of inter-cultural and inter-religious relations with nations with substantial Muslim populations. He is widely known domestically, having held numerous positions of leadership throughout his career: in journalism, in organized labor and representing Singapore's large percentage of Muslims.

THAILAND

PITSUWAN, HIS EXCELLENCY DR SURIN

Pitsuwan is the secretary general of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and a former foreign minister of Thailand. He is an advocate for better relations with Muslims in South East Asia, speaking out against the marginalization of Muslim communities. ASEAN is one of the most important international organizations in the world, coordinating the economies and politics of some of the fastest growing middle-income economies in the world.

TURKMENISTAN

BERDIMUHAMEDOW, HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT GURBANGULY MÄLIKGULYÝEWIÇ

Berdimuhamedow has been the president of Turkmenistan since 21 December 2006. In April 2007,

Berdimuhamedow visited Islamic holy sites in Medina underlining the relationship he is seeking to build with the broader Muslim world. He is a moderate Muslim traditionalist who has sought to normalize life in Turkmenistan after the more unorthodox religious beliefs of his predecessor Niyazov.

EUROPE

DENMARK

KHADER, NASSER

Khader is Denmark's leading Muslim politician. As a member of parliament, he has represented both the Social Liberal Party and the Liberal Alliance, the latter until 5 January 2009 as founding leader. A leading proponent of peaceful co-existence of democracy and Islam, he established a new movement, Moderate Muslims (later renamed Democratic Muslims), when the Jyllands-Posten Muhammad cartoons controversy started.

MOJADDEDI, DR ASMAT

Mojaddedi is the head of the Muslim Council of Denmark, which is a key national voice for the Muslim community; this makes him one of the most influential Muslims in Denmark. His position has become increasingly important in Europe because of the rise in tensions between the Muslim and non-Muslim communities there. In the aftermath of this, he has been key in important interfaith activities between Christian and Muslim leaders in Denmark. Incidentally his father is the former president of Afghanistan.

FRANCE

BECHARI, DR MOHAMMAD

Bechari, born in Morocco, is a leader and prolific and dynamic public figure in the landscape of European Islam. He is the president of the French National Federation of Muslims, one of the leading entities organizing Islam in France. He is also the secretary general of a Europe-wide umbrella organization that seeks to be a single organization representing European Muslims at a European level. He is the founder of the Avicenna Institute in Lille and is the vice president of the French Council of the Muslim Faith.

KOSOVO

THACHI, HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT HASHIM

Thachi was formerly a political leader of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA). The KLA was the guerrilla group that fought against Serb forces in the late 1990s. Thachi is the first president of the newly formed Kosovan national government. Kosovo itself is significant as an important cause for international Muslim solidarity, and the most recent Muslim majority country in the world.

RUSSIA

KADYROV, HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT RAMZAN

President of Chechnya, Ramzan Kadyrov is the son of former president, rebel leader and preacher Akhmad Kadyrov. He maintains an iron grip on Chechnya's government and institutions.

SHAIMIEV, HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT MINTIMER

Shaimiev is the first and current president of the Republic of Tatarstan, a Muslim republic in the Russian Federation. He was awarded the King Faisal International Prize 2007 for his services to the Muslim population. Tatarstan is an affluent region in the center of Russia, and its religious culture has been lauded as a model of the combination of Islamic religion and European culture. Shaimiev recently welcomed delegations from around the world to Kazan, the capital of Tatarstan, for the 1000th anniversary of the city.

RUSSIA

UMAROV, DOKKA

Umarov is the underground, self-proclaimed leader of the Caucasian Emirate of Ichkeria, an as of yet non-existent state on the southern side of Russia. He works clandestinely to unify rebel movements across many north Caucasian states.

YEVLOYEV, AKHMED

Yevloyev is an important rebel leader based in Ingushetia, a region bordering Chechnya. He is part of the broader Caucasian Front movement, which is trying to set up an Islamic free-state on the southern border of Russia.

TURKEY

DAVUTOGLU, HIS EXCELLENCY AHMET

Davutoglu is the current minister of foreign affairs of Turkey. He is considered to be the most important figure for redefining the new framework of Turkish foreign policy under the AK Party's rule since 2003. Before becoming the foreign minister, Davutoglu served as chief foreign policy advisor to PMs Gül and Erdogan. He is influential both as a politician and a well-respected, and successful scholar of international relations and the Muslim world.

ERBAKAN, HIS EXCELLENCY PROF. NECMETTIN

Erbakan is a former prime minister of Turkey (1996-1997), and the founder of the National View movement from which the current prime minister and president hail. His election to prime minister was the first time an Islamic party, the Welfare Party, had been elected to govern in modern Turkish history. He has advocated a stronger relationship between Turkey and the Muslim world, which much of the Turkish electorate supports. He remains one of the most well-known Turkish politicians in the Muslim world.

UNITED KINGDOM

AHMED, LORD NAZIR

Nazir Ahmed is the first Muslim member of the House of Lords, the upper chamber of the United Kingdom's bicameral parliament. Membership is for life, and underlines the respect and trust he has in the British establishment. He has worked on issues relating to Islam and Britain's Muslim community. He also works internationally to promote dialogue and freedom of religion.

ALI, DR ANAS AL SHAIKH

Anas al Shaikh Ali is the chair of the small but dynamic Association of Muslim Social Scientists (AMSS) and the director of the International Institute of Islamic Thought (IIT) London Office. The AMSS has been active producing policy papers and publications on issues of concern to the UK's Muslim population for many years, but was thrust into mainstream domestic politics after the events of 7 July 2005 in London. Ali has been at the forefront of a number of international campaigns for better relations between faiths, specifically in promoting the 'A Common Word' initiative and also the fight against the demonization of Islam in media, founding the UK's Forum against Islamophobia and Racism.

ALI, MOCKBUL

Ali is a foreign policy advisor at the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office. He is highly respected by his peers, commanding considerable clout in British governmental departments over issues related to Muslims. He is instrumental in the British government's outreach strategy to Muslims, and also in broader efforts to bring British Muslims into the mainstream.

UNITED KINGDOM

MALIK, SHAHID

Malik is formerly the most senior British Muslim politician, holding two important ministerial positions as justice minister and international development minister. He still remains a leading figure in the Labour Party and an important spokesperson for Muslims in the United Kingdom.

WARSI, LADY SAYEEDA

Warsi is the most senior Muslim in the Conservative Party. She is the Shadow Minister for Community Cohesion and Social Action, and a member of the shadow cabinet. She was part of the successful mission by British Muslim politicians to Sudan to secure the release of an imprisoned British teacher in 2007.

NORTH AMERICA

UNITED STATES

ELLISON, REPRESENTATIVE KEITH

Keith Ellison is the first Muslim to serve in US Congress. He is serving his second term in the Fifth Congressional District of Minnesota in the United States House of Representatives and also serves on the Financial Services and Foreign Affairs Committees.

HUSSAIN, RASHAD

Rashad Hussain is the first Indian-American to be appointed Deputy Associate Counsel to the president; he was appointed by President Obama. He is a former trial attorney at the US Department of Justice, a former legislative assistant to the House Judiciary Committee, and a former editor of the Yale Law Journal.

ADMINISTRATIVE
MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

ALGERIA

GHLAMALLAH, HIS EXCELLENCY BOUABDELLAH

Ghlamallah is Algeria's long-standing Minister of Waqf and Islamic Affairs, a position he has held since the election of current President Bouteflika in 1999. He previously held high level positions in the Ministry of Education throughout the 1980s and 1990s where he went from focusing on basic education to the organization of Qur'anic schools and religious education. He maintains a strong commitment to France's Algerian Muslim community.

EGYPT

EL BARADEI, HIS EXCELLENCY DR MOHAMMAD

El Baradei is the director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and a Nobel Peace Prize laureate. Before working with the IAEA he was an international lawyer working with the Egyptian diplomatic corps, and a career United Nations professional. His religion and his nationality have given him significant weight when dealing with nuclear proliferation in the Middle East.

IRAN

SHAHRESTANI, SEYYED JAVAD

Shahrestani is the envoy of Grand Ayatollah Ali Sistani in Iran. Many Iranians see Sistani as their *marja*, and therefore pay *khums* (one fifth of their earnings) to him through Shahrestani. Shahrestani is Sistani's son-in-law.

SOBHANI, HIS EMINENCE AYATOLLAH JAFAR

Sobhani is a leading member of the Council of Mujtahids in the Seminary of Qom; one of the two most important centers of learning in Twelver Shi'ism. He is the director of the Imam Sadiq Institute, Iran. His work in all areas of the Islamic sciences is widely known and receives critical attention. His is a prolific writer having published over 300 scholarly works.

VAEZ-TABASI, HIS EMINENCE AYATOLLAH ABBAS

Vaez-Tabasi is at the head of Iran's single richest institution, the Holy Estate of Imam Reza. The Holy Estate owns hundreds of companies, and resources. His revenue is supplemented by the donations of the millions of pilgrims that make the journey to Mashhad, where Imam Reza (the eighth of the Twelver Imams) is buried.

JORDAN

FARHAN, ISHAQ

Farhan is the leader of the Islamic Action Front (IAF). The IAF is the political arm of the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan. He is known as a moderate, and was an early advocate of the participation of women in the movement.

HLAYYEL, HIS EXCELLENCY JUSTICE PROF. DR SHEIKH AHMAD

Hlayyel is the Chief Islamic Justice of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. He is also the Imam of the Hashemite Court; former minister of religious affairs, and professor of the Qur'anic sciences.

LEBANON

DAOUK, AMINE M

Daouk is the head of the Makassed Philanthropic Islamic Association of Beirut. Makassed is one of the oldest modern Islamic development organizations in Lebanon. It started as an initiative to make

free education available to girls and has developed into a major Muslim development organization, working on education, health care, and social issues.

LEBANON

JABRI, DR ABDUL-NASSER

Jabri is the dean of the Islamic College of Da'wa in Beirut. The college is one of the foremost centers for *da'wa* education in Lebanon.

NASHABEH, PROF. DR HISHAM

Nashabeh is the chairman of the Board of Higher Education and the dean of Education at the Makassed Association, Lebanon. He oversees the educational work of all the institutions in the Makassed network. He is also chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Institute of Palestine Studies and the director of the Institute of Higher Islamic Studies, both based in Beirut.

LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA

AL SHARIF, PROF. DR MUHAMMAD AHMED

Al Sharif is the secretary general of the World Islamic Call Society (WICS), Tripoli. The WICS is one of the leading organizations working globally to promote the Islamic faith. It has worked largely in Africa, to spread the message of Islam and also for development work there. It is a huge network of organizations with a powerful patron: Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi.

MOROCCO

BENBIN, PROF. DR AHMAD SHAWQI

Benbin is the director of the Hasaniyya Library, Morocco. He is an eminent professor, and is globally recognized for his research in the study of Islamic manuscripts. He has published many books and specialized studies.

MODGHARI, HIS EXCELLENCY DR ABD AL KABIR

Modghari is the director of the Casablanca-based Bayt Mal al Quds agency of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, which is devoted to safeguarding of the city of Jerusalem, and its religious, architectural and cultural heritage, and also providing development assistance to the Palestinian population and their institutions. He was a former long-term Minister of Waqf and Islamic Affairs of the Kingdom of Morocco representing the late King Hassan II.

OMAN

AL KHALILI, HIS EMINENCE SHEIKH AHMAD

Sheikh al Khalili is the Grand Mufti of Oman. He is head of religious institutions there, and is charged with ensuring that the religious teachings of Oman follow a moderate path. He issues *fatwas* on behalf of Oman's establishment, and represents Oman in Islamic events abroad.

PALESTINE

SABRI, HIS EMINENCE SHEIKH DR IKRIMA SAID

Sabri is head of the Supreme Islamic Council, and a former Grand Mufti of Jerusalem and all of Palestine. He remains an Imam of the Blessed Al Aqsa Mosque, preaching there regularly. He is an important figure who is well respected by many in Palestine for his forthright views on Israel.

SAUDI ARABIA

AL RAJHI, SULAIMAN ABDUL AZIZ

Al Rajhi owns the biggest stake in the world's largest organization for Islamic banking and finance, Al Rajhi Bank, with roughly 60 outlets in Saudi Arabia and more in Malaysia. As Saudi Arabia's richest non-royals, members of the al Rajhi family are among the world's leading philanthropists. They also run the SARR Foundation: a network of charities and research organizations.

SYRIA

ALCHAAR, DR MOHAMMED NEDAL

Alchaar is the secretary general of the Accounting and Auditing Organization for Islamic Financial Institutions (AAOIFI). The AAOIFI is an independent international corporate organization supported by its 200 members from 45 countries around the globe which comprise the international Islamic banking and finance industry. It is one of the key organizations creating standards for the Islamic banking industry.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICA

HENDRICKS, MAULANA IGSHAAN

Hendricks is the president of the Muslim Judicial Council of Cape Town. The Muslim Judicial Council is one of the central Islamic organizations in South Africa, doing educational work as well as social work for the Muslim community. The organization runs the International Peace University of South Africa (IPSA), and oversees administration of Cape Town's Al Azhar Institute.

MIDDLE AFRICA

CHAD

ABAKAR, SHEIKH HUSSAIN HASSAN

Sheikh Hussain Hassan Abakar is the Imam of the Muslims of Chad and the chairman of the Supreme Council of Islamic Affairs in Chad. He is also a founding member of the Muslim World League (MWL). Abakar oversees the activities of the Supreme Council of Islamic Affairs in implementing educational and cultural programs through Islamic schools, educational books and training courses for Imams. He has been important in fundraising for the education of Muslims in Chad.

EAST AFRICA

MALAWI

KING'OMBE, SHEIKH AMAN

King'ombe is the Spiritual Advisor of the Celebrations of the Birth of the Prophet Muhammad. He is a cleric responsible for the organization of the festivities. The festivities are attended by thousands of Muslims from the around Africa. In 2009 he extended an invitation to the Christian population of Malawi to partake in the festival.

WEST AFRICA

MAURITANIA

BAH, PROF. DR MOHAMMED EL MOKHTAR OULD

Bah is the president of the Chinguetti Modern University, Mauritania. Chinguetti is a UNESCO World Heritage site because of its importance as a center of Islamic learning in the North West coast of Africa. This gives Bah a position with considerable historical and religious capital in West Africa.

NIGERIA

ADEGBITE, DR LATEEF OLADIMEJI

Lateef Oladimeji is the acting secretary and legal adviser of the Nigerian Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs and he co-founded the Muslim Student's Society Nigeria (MSSN) in 1954.

NIGERIA

AJIBOLA, HIS EXCELLENCY PRINCE BOLA

Prince Bola Ajibola is the former head of the Nigerian High Commission in London and the president and founder of the Islamic Movement for Africa. He also served as the vice chairman of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague between 1991 and 1994. In 1994 he was appointed Judge ad-hoc to the Permanent Court of International Arbitration, with respect to the court's deliberations on the land dispute between Nigeria and Cameroon. He also served as the Attorney General and Minister of Justice in Nigeria. Most recently he founded the Crescent University, in Abeokuta, Nigeria. He is also a senior fellow of the Aal al Bayt Institute for Islamic Thought in Jordan.

ORIRE, JUSTICE ABDULKADIR

Orire is a key figure in Nigeria. He is the secretary general of the umbrella organization Jama'atu Nasril Islam, which acts as a bridge between the Sufi orders and anti-Sufi population of Nigeria. Orrie is the national chairman of the *Ulema* and advocates for a *sharia*-governed country.

CARIBBEAN

JAMAICA

MUHAMMAD, MUSTAFA

Muhammad has been the president of the Islamic Council of Jamaica for the past 14 years. His work involves education and halal certification. He oversees the eleven mosques in Jamaica. An estimated 5,000 Muslims regularly attend mosques in Jamaica.

TIJANI, MARUFAT

Tijani is the principal of the Islamiyah Basic School with the Islamic Council of Jamaica. Although it is a one-room school, its role as the only basic school for Muslim-specific education dedicated to teaching Arabic and other basic skills is important.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

ALI, IMAM YACOOB

Ali is the president of the largest and most influential Muslim organization in Trinidad and Tobago, the Anjuman Sunnat ul Jamaat Association (ASJA) which was founded in 1936. The Muslim community in Trinidad and Tobago is largely comprised of people of Indian descent. His organization runs numerous schools and focuses on the importance of education for Muslim youth.

CENTRAL AMERICA

EL SALVADOR

AL SALVADORI, MUSTAFA

Mustafa Al Salvadori is the president of the Shi'a community in El Salvador. His work, besides that with his own community, has tended to involve education about Islam to the mainly Catholic population of El Salvador who have become fearful of Islam over the past decade.

SOUTH AMERICA

ARGENTINA

HALLAR, MUHAMMAD YUSUF

Hallar is an active figure in Argentina involved in community development for Latino Muslims. He has conducted comprehensive research on the Muslims in Latin America and holds a number of positions including secretary general of the Islamic Organization of Latin America and also director of the Office of Islamic Culture and a member of the Expert Committee on Minority Rights for the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC).

BRAZIL

OTHMAN, ABDUL-BAQI SAYED

Othman is the director of the Charitable Society of Muslims (Sociedad de Beneficiente Muçulmana) of Rio de Janeiro. He has represented Brazilian Muslims in many international conferences. He is also a *da'wa* activist, and runs the IQRA publishing center in Brazil where he helps publish translations of various Islamic books.

SAIFI, AHMED

Saifi is a very active *da'wa* activist in Brazil. He is considered a distinguished member of Al Ikhwan Al Muslimeen. He has been sent to several conferences as the representative of the Brazilian Muslim community.

ECUADOR

SUQUILLO, JUAN

Suquillo is an imam and the director and co-founder of the Islamic Centre of Ecuador. He has been awarded for his services to the nation, and has translated many books into Spanish. These have become very popular since the 9/11 attacks when non-Muslims became interested in learning about Islam. His books have become bestsellers since then. He is very well respected by South American Muslim scholars.

ASIA

BANGLADESH

RAHMAN, MOHAMMAD FAZLUR

Rahman is the leader of the Islamic Foundation Bangladesh. The Islamic Foundation is a quasi-governmental organization working under the ministry of religious affairs in Bangladesh. Its chief aims are educational, and organizational, researching, publishing, offering scholarships and also providing funding to maintain mosques. The head office is in Dhaka, and is supported by six regional offices and 58 district offices. The organization runs seven Imam training centers and 29 centers for *da'wa.*

INDIA

AHMAD, SHEIKH ABOOBACKAR

Ahmad is the secretary general of the Kerala-based Sunni Cultural Center Markazu Saqafathi Sunniya. He is credited with creating a resurgence in the religiosity of southern India's Muslim population. The center has become one of the more significant educational organizations in Kerala with 40 schools going from primary to university level. There are about 9,000 students at the schools, many of them orphans.

CHINA

GUANGYUAN, IMAM CHEN

Chen Guangyuan is the Grand Imam of China as well as the president of the Islamic Association of China and the president of the Chinese-Islamic Institute. He has a very important position, with China's roughly 20 million Muslims coming almost exclusively from minority groups.

CHINA (HONG KONG)

ARSHAD, MUFTI MOHAMMAD

Mohammed Arshad is the chief imam of Hong Kong and the *khateeb* (sermon giver) of the largest mosque in Hong Kong. Arshad keeps good relations with the government, police and foreign consulates. Approximately 50,000 Muslims live in Hong Kong.

INDONESIA

UMAR, DR NASARUDDIN

Nasaruddin is the director general of religious guidance at the ministry of religious affairs of the Republic of Indonesia. He is also a rector of the Institute for Advanced Qur'anic Studies in Indonesia and secretary general of the Nahdhatul Ulama Consultative Council.

SINGAPORE

IBRAHIM, HIS EXCELLENCY DR YAQOOB

Ibrahim is the current minister for the Environment and Water Resources and has held the position of minister-in-charge of Muslim affairs since 2002. The lack of tension between Singapore's Muslim and non-Muslim community is testament to the nation's proactive efforts to create a cosmopolitan society. He remains a very active member of the Muslim community; and is a member of the Association of Muslim Professionals.

UZBEKISTAN

ALEMOV, HIS EMINENCE USMAN

Alemov is the chief mufti of Uzbekistan. He has had this position since 2006. He is respected for his moderate stance and proven record in coping with extremists in the Samarkand region where he was formerly a mufti. He was instrumental in making Tashkent the ISESCO Capital of Islamic Culture for 2007.

EUROPE

ALBANIA

KOCI, HAFIZ SABRI

Sabri Koci is chairman of the Muslim Committee in Albania, which is the country's ruling Islamic body. He spent 27 years in a prison labour camp under the communist rule during which he authored many books about Islam. These works were so inspiring that he was elected as leader of Albanian Muslims after his release.

MUCHA, HAXHI SELIM

Haxhi Selim Mucha is president of the Islamic Community of Albania and the leader of Muslims there. Albania is one of only a handful of Muslim majority countries in Europe.

AUSTRIA

BAGHAJATI, AMINA

Baghajati is the spokesperson for the Austrian Muslim Association (IGGIOe). She was the organizer of the Conference of European Imams working with the Austrian foreign ministry to bring together 130 Muslim leaders from across Europe. The conference ended with a final declaration calling for European Muslims to become more deeply integrated while preserving their identities.

SHAKFEH, ANNAS

Shakfeh is the head of the Islamic Faith Community in Austria (IGGiOe). He has been president for around a decade, building a close relationship with the Austrian state on community integration. Shakfeh also leads the Islamic Education Authority. In 2008 he was decorated for his services to the Republic of Austria by President Heinz Fischer.

BELARUS

SHA'ABANOVIC, SHEIKH ABU BAKER

Belarusian mufti, and head of the Muslim Religious Organization of Belarus. There are about 20 Muslim communities all around Belarus. Sha'abanovic is currently building a mosque in the capital, Minsk.

BELARUS

VORONOVICH, ISMAIL MUKHAREMOVICH

Voronovich runs the Muslim Spiritual Directorate of Belarus. It is linked to a number of small communities around Belarus, with the largest based at a mosque in Slonim.

BELGIUM

AL YAHYA, DR ABDUL-AZIZ MOHAMMAD ABDULLAH

Al Yahya is the director of the Islamic Cultural Center in Brussels, Belgium. In 1969, the Islamic Cultural Center in Brussels was founded as an institution housing a mosque, a library, and information service as well as offices. It was funded by the Muslim World League and Saudi Arabia, and hosted the European Council of Mosques for several years. It mainly functioned as an intermediary between the Muslim community and the Belgian state, negotiating the needs and interests of Muslims.

CZECH REPUBLIC

SANKA, VLADIMIR

Vladimir Sanka is the head of The Islamic Centre in Prague. The Czech Republic is one of the least religious countries in Europe, however Sanka's center bucks this trend, leading the fastest-growing religious community in Prague, and reflecting a larger movement throughout Europe.

ITALY

PALLAVICINI, IMAM YAHYA SERGIO YAHE

Pallavicini is an important figure in the religious life of Italian Muslims as well as in European relations with the Muslim world. He is vice president of CO.RE.IS (Comunità Religiosa Islamica, the Islamic Religious Community), Italy, the chairman of the ISESCO Council for Education and Culture in the West, and an advisor for Islamic affairs to the Italian minister of interior. He is also the imam of the al Wahid Mosque of Milan in Via Meda, where he organizes the training of imams in Italian. His father is Abd Al Wahid Pallavicini, the noted preacher and head of the Ahamadiyyah Idrissiyyah Shadhiliyyah brotherhood in Italy.

DENMARK

PEDERSON, ABDUL WAHID

Abdul Wahid Pederson is the vice president of Muslims in Dialogue, which promotes Islam within Denmark, the principal of three elementary schools, vice chairman of the Islamic Christian Study Centre, and secretary general of the charity Danish Muslim Aid. He is the first imam to hold Friday sermons in Danish.

FINLAND

DAHER, OKAN

Okan Daher is the chairman of the Tatar Muslim population of Helsinki. Tatar Muslims have lived in Finland for centuries. He is influential in both community relations with the Christian-majority society of Finland, promoting ways to adapt flexibly while maintaining cultural heritage, and also by promoting relations with the various Tatar communities in Europe.

FRANCE

ABU BAKR, SHEIKH PROF. DALIL

Abu Bakr is the chairman of the France Supreme Council of the Islamic Religion, and the dean of the Paris Mosque. France has one of the largest populations of Muslims in Europe, and the Paris Mosque is a key feature in the landscape of Islam in the country. The Paris Mosque is also an important intercultural venue for people to learn about Islam.

ICELAND

TAMIMI, SALMANN

Tamimi is the president of the Muslim Association of Iceland and performed the first Icelandic Muslim marriage in 2009. Tamimi's position makes him high-profile in a country of just of 300,000 people.

KOSOVO

TRNAVA, HIS EMINENCE SHEIKH NAIM

Naim Trnava is the Grand Mufti of Kosovo. He is the leading religious figure in Kosovo, a new country, which emerged after an ethno-religious war that caused widespread loss of life and destruction. Trnava is a key figure in the attempts of the country's Muslim population to overcome the horrors of war He was instrumental in the creation of the Inter-Religious Council Organization for Interfaith Relations.

LITHUANIA

JAKUBAUSKAS, ROMAS

Imam of Kaunas Mosque, Lithuania. Kaunas has the largest population of native Tatar Muslims in Lithuania. Tatar Muslims have been resident in Lithuania for close to 600 years.

PORTUGAL

MUNIR, DAVID

David Munir has been the imam of the Central Mosque of Lisbon since the age of 23. A key representative of the Muslim community in Lisbon, Munir is involved in interfaith dialogue with members of other Abrahamic faiths present there.

RUSSIA

GAYNUTDINOV, HIS EMINENCE SHEIKH RAVIL ISMAGILOVICH

Sheikh Ravil Gaynutdinov is a Moscow-based Muslim scholar. Among various academic roles he is Grand Mufti of Russia and chairman of the Union of Muftis of Russia. He is probably the single most important figure in the schema of Russian Islam. He is a key figure in relations between the Kremlin and Russia's Muslim population as a member of the Russian president's Council for Relations with Religious Associations.

SWEDEN

AL DEBE, MAHMOUD JAMIL

Mahmoud Jamil al Debe is the chairman of the Muslim Association of Sweden and an advocate for the rights of Muslims in Sweden. The Muslim Association of Sweden is the country's largest Muslim organization, which represents around 70,000 Muslims in Sweden. Muslims make up a successful and vocal portion of Sweden's primarily inclusive society.

BIN OUDA, HELENA

Bin Ouda is the chairwoman of the Muslim Council of Sweden. The Muslim Council of Sweden is the main representative body for Muslims living in Sweden. The council is an umbrella organization of a number of Islamic organizations in Sweden. The Muslim Council of Sweden currently has nine member organizations, with a sum total of about 100,000 members from its member organizations.

TURKEY

AYDIN, HIS EXCELLENCY MEHMET

Aydın is the Turkish minister of state, a primarily administrative government position responsible for relations with Turkey's huge quantity of religious institutions, dealings with Turkish citizens abroad, and relations with the Central Asian republics. He has also held the sensitive position of

advisor on religious matters to the Turkish National Security Council.

TURKEY

BARDAKOGLU, ALI

Ali Bardakoglu is the president of the Presidency of Religious Affairs in Turkey. He is a moderate Islamic leader who supports interfaith initiatives and in 2005 appointed two women to the position of Vice Mufti. The Presidency of Religious Affairs has significant influence over the activities of religious associations and places of worship in the country. He is former professor of Islamic law at the University of Marmara.

ÇAGRICI, HIS EMINENCE PROF. DR MUSTAFA

Mustafa Çagrıcı is the mufti of Istanbul as well as a theology professor and is a respected figure among Turkish Muslims. He welcomed and prayed with Pope Benedict XVI in the Blue Mosque in 2006.

EREN, HIS EXCELLENCY HALIT

Eren is the director general of the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA) of the Organization of the Islamic Conference. The IRCICA is the leading center for research on the Ottoman Caliphate, and an important center for research on Islamic history. Eren is an expert on minority and non-Arab Muslim communities.

GORMEZ, DR MEHMET

Gormez is the vice president of the Presidency of Religious Affairs (Diyanet) in Turkey. He has attracted a lot of attention recently for a large research project that the Presidency is carrying out to understand the role of *Hadith* in contemporary Turkey. Gormez is in charge of producing a number of major publications for the Diyanet in the field of Qur'anic commentary, Islamic history and the written sources of the Alevi tradition in Turkey.

UNITED KINGDOM

AHSAN, DR MANAZIR

Ahsan is the director general of the Islamic Foundation, Leicester. The Islamic Foundation is one of the main centers working for integration and understanding of the British Muslim population. Although the center has occasionally been referred to as extremist, it does accurately reflect the diversity of the British Muslim community.

ALI, AMJAD

Ali Amjad is the head of HSBC Amanah UK branch of the HSBC bank. HSBC Amanah UK is Britain's largest provider of *sharia*-compliant financial services. HSBC Amanah UK is HSBC's first venture in Islamic banking outside the Muslim world.

EL DIWANY, TAREQ

El Diwany is a key figure in British Islamic finance circles who wrote *The Problem with Interest*, a key text on the Islamic perspective on banking, in 1997. He is a prominent speaker and continues to be an editor of islamic-finance.com, as well as a partner in Zest Advisory LLP, which offers consulting services in Islamic banking.

GHAFFUR, TARIQUE

Ghaffur is a former high-ranking British police officer in London's Metropolitan Police Service. As the UK's highest-ranking Muslim police officer, he often used his high profile position to publicly comment on issues of alleged racism in the Metropolitan Police Service. He has spoken out frequently, blaming discrimination against Muslims as a contributing factor to the incitement of radical Islam.

OCEANIA

NEW ZEALAND

KHAN, JAVED

Khan is president of the Federation of Islamic Associations of New Zealand (FIANZ). His work leading FIANZ has been considerable; building bridges with the government as well as with the broader New Zealand population and leaders of other faiths. He was also recipient of the Queen's Service Medal in 2006.

KIREKA-WHAANGA

Kireka-Whaanga is the leader of Aotearoa Maori Muslim Association (AMMA); the main organization for New Zealand's Maori Muslims. Islam is an increasingly important religion for the indigenous population of New Zealand, and is the fastest growing religion amongst the Maori community.

NORTH AMERICA

CANADA

DELIC, IMAM DR ZIJAD

Imam Delic is National Executive Director of the Canadian Islamic Congress. The CIC is made up of 24 organizations plus 180 unaffiliated individuals; the CIC's newsletter has 300,000 subscribers worldwide. He is a scholar who writes about how Muslims can integrate into Canadian society, and has been a consultant to the Canadian government and various NGOs. He is the former imam of the British Columbia Muslim Association. The British Columbia Muslim Association represents 57,000 Muslims living in BC.

UNITED STATES

ALI, MOHAMMAD SHAMSI

Imam Ali is the imam of three New York City mosques, including at the 96th Street Mosque, the city's largest mosque, and the chairman of the Muslim Day Parade. He works with Muslims from many ethnic backgrounds and is very active in interfaith efforts throughout New York City. Since September 11, 2001 New York's Muslim population have been under close scrutiny, and interfaith activities have been both high-profile, and well supported, giving religious leaders in the city a globally significant role in defusing tensions between religions.

AMR, HADY

Amr is a very senior policy analyst working on relations with the Muslim world with significant influence over policy debates. He is the founding director of the Brookings Center in Doha, and a fellow at the Brookings Institution's Saban Center for Middle East Policy. He also serves on the World Economic Forum Council of 100 Leaders on Western-Islamic World Relations.

EL ERIAN, DR MOHAMED

Dr el Erian is the CEO and CIO of PIMCO—one of the world's largest asset management companies. Previously, he served as the investment manager of Harvard University's endowment fund, and deputy director of the International Monetary Fund. He is the bestselling author of a number of books on international economics and finance.

GHAZI, ABIDULLAH

Ghazi is the creator of the IQRA' Educational Foundation, a non-profit organization that creates Islamic studies textbooks and educational materials especially for children. He developed 'IQRA', the first-ever standardized Islamic-studies test which was piloted in April 2009 in Chicago and is currently being used in 20 countries around the world.

UNITED STATES

HELMINSKI, SHEIKH KABIR

Helminski is a sheikh of the Mevlevi Tariqah (an order of Sufism founded by the followers of Rumi). He is an author and translator of books on Sufi poetry; co-director of the Book Foundation; and co-director, along with his wife, of the Threshold Society, which is an NGO dedicated to education about Sufi traditions.

KAVAKÇI, PROF. DR HAFIZ YUSUF Z

Kavakçi is one of America's foremost Islamic educators. Past roles include resident scholar of the Islamic Association of North Texas (IANT); founder and instructor at the IANT Qur'anic Academy; and the founding dean of the Suffa Islamic Seminary, Dallas, Texas, USA. His latest initiative, the Yusuf Ziya Kavakçi Institute, is his most ambitious. The Institute aims to introduce a full system of combined Muslim and secular education to the US from primary to tertiary education, that is able to produce students who are qualified in the social and Islamic sciences and are able to recite the Qur'an.

MAGID, IMAM MOHAMED

Imam Magid is the executive director and imam at the All Dulles Area Muslim Society Center in Virginia. He is an advocate for youth and women, is the vice president of ISNA, and serves on the FBI's Muslim, Sikh, and Arab Advisory Committee.

AL SHABAZZ, ILYASAH

Al Shabazz, the daughter of Malcolm X, is an author, activist and lecturer who serves as corporation president and trustee of the Malcolm X & Dr Betty Shabazz Memorial, Educational, and Cultural Centre. She has been involved in community service in New York City. Due to Malcolm X's pivotal role in the civil rights movement she enjoys a significant amount of authority among black Muslims.

WAHHAJ, SIRAJ

Siraj Wahhaj is imam of the controversial al Taqwa Mosque in Brooklyn, a prolific lecturer, the leader of the Muslim Alliance in North America, and former vice president of ISNA. In 1991, he became the first Muslim to recite the Opening Prayer of the Qur'an *(Al Fatiha),* at the US House of Representatives.

LINEAGE

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

IRAQ

AL SADR, SHEIKH MUQTADA

Al Sadr is the son of the late Grand Ayatollah Mohammad Mohammad Sadiq al Sadr, and an influential Shi'a political leader. He has gained prominence since the death of Saddam Hussein and created the Mahdi Army in 2003, an armed insurgency movement that has formed its own courts and law enforcement. He promotes a Shi'a-controlled government. Along with Grand Ayatollah Ali Sistani he is one of the two most important Shi'a leaders in Iraq. Although there are more qualified Shi'a scholars, Sadr's social and political role make him critically important.

JORDAN

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE EL HASSAN BIN TALAL

Prince El Hassan Bin Talal is an eminent thinker on development and Islam, and has been recognized around the globe for his work, winning a number of awards for his interfaith activities. In addition to his noble lineage and to his being the brother of the late H.M. King Hussein of Jordan, Oxford-educated Prince El Hassan has been one of the leading intellectuals of the Arab world for decades, and one of the pioneers of interfaith dialogue. Among his achievements are: founding the Arab Thought Forum (1981); founding the Royal Institute for Interfaith Studies (1994); and being President Emeritus of the World Conference of Religions for Peace (since 2006).

SUDAN

AL MAHDI, HIS EXCELLENCY IMAM SAYYED AL SADIQ

Al Mahdi is the president of the moderate Islamic Umma Party, and the Imam of the Sufi order Al Ansar. He was prime minister of Sudan until the government was overthrown. He was forced into exile, but now has returned and is working to restore peace and democracy in the Sudan. He derives a significant portion of his authority from the fact that he descends from his great grandfather Muhammad Ahmad, who claimed to be the *Mahdi*, that is a prophesized figure believed by many Muslims to return to revive the Islamic faith.

WEST AFRICA

NIGERIA

BAYERO, HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS EMIR AL HAJI DR ADO

Ado Bayero is the current Emir of Kano. The Emir is the traditional ruler of the Nigerian city of Kano, which is the capital of the current Kano State. Bayero is a popular leader amongst a wide variety of Nigerian Muslims. He is an influential Tijani sheikh, with lineage back to the prominent Fulani jihadist, and religious reformer, Osman Dan Fodio. He is regarded as a wise counselor both at home and abroad because of his experience and ability to mediate between cultures, which makes him an important asset in promoting mutual understanding and resolving conflicts between different ethnic and religious groups.

EUROPE

ALBANIA

BARDHI, HIS EMINENCE HAXHI DEDE RESHAT

Haxhi Dede Reshat Bardhi is the world leader of the Bektashi community, a seven million member strong Sufi order based in Albania. He has been internationally recognized for his active role in interfaith cooperation and encouraging peace in Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

PREACHERS
MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

EGYPT

ABDELKAFY, SHEIKH DR OMAR

Abdelkafy is an Egyptian preacher and *da'wa* practitioner. He is very well respected by his peers as a *Hafiz al Qur'an* (one who has memorized the entire Qur'an). He is the director of the Qur'anic Studies Centre at the Dubai International Holy Qur'an Award in Dubai. As well as working in his native Egypt, he travels abroad to help Muslim communities; working specifically with the Muslim community in Canada

IRAQ

KUBAISI, SHEIKH DR AHMED

Kubaisi is a very popular Sunni cleric and preacher in Iraq, who preaches for the end of foreign occupation in Iraq and the institution of an Islamic state. To this end he is a spokesperson of the Sunni Ulema Council, an important association of Sunni Muslim scholars in Iraq. He leads prayers that are televised worldwide from the state mosque of Abu Dhabi.

ISRAEL

SALAH, SHEIKH RAED

Raed Salah is the head of the northern branch of the Islamic Movement in Israel. He is widely respected in the Islamic world as a spiritual leader. From 1989 to 2001 Salah also served as the mayor of Umm al Fahm, an Israeli-Arab city, before taking on the leadership of the Islamic Movement in Israel.

SAUDI ARABIA

KALBANI, SHEIKH ADIL

Kalbani was selected by King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia to lead prayers at the Grand Mosque in Mecca, making him the first black imam there. He is however one of approximately 30 sheikhs appointed to the *Haram*, or sanctuary in Mecca. He has been an imam since 1984, gradually being transferred to larger, more important mosques. He is famous for his excellent recitation of the Qur'an.

SUDAN

EL BASHIR, HIS EXCELLENCY DR ISSAM

El Bashir is the secretary general of the International Moderation Centre (IMC) in Kuwait. The IMC is an organization set up by the Higher Committee for the Promotion of Moderation, of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs of the State of Kuwait to promote Islamic moderation domestically and around the world. The center has worked with communities in Britain and Russia, among other places, to promote moderation among the extremist elements of their Muslim population. Locally it trains over 700 Imams at a time with a focus on practices of moderation.

AL TURABI, HASSAN ABDALLAH

Al Turabi is a Sudanese religious leader. He is widely regarded as a moderate and uses Islamic teachings to foster social development. He is an advocate for women's rights, and believes Muslim fundamentalists place prohibitions above social development. He has recently stated that Sudanese president Omar Al Bashir should give himself up to the International Criminal Court for the sake of Sudan.

PREACHERS

ASIA

INDIA

NAIK, ZAKIR ABDUL-KARIM

Zakir Abdul-Karim Naik is an Indian public intellectual teaching about Islam. He hosts huge public events where he speaks on Islam, highlighting misconceptions and promoting understanding about Islam. He also challenges leaders in other faiths to public debates that are broadcast around the world on Peace TV—a satellite channel that he helped to found.

EUROPE

ITALY

PALLAVICINI, SHEIKH ABD AL WAHID

Sheikh Abd al Wahid Pallavicini is a noted preacher from Milan, Italy. After converting to Islam in 1951, he joined the Ahamadiyyah Idrissiyyah Shadhiliyyah Sufi order and is now head of the brotherhood in Italy. His son is Imam Yahya Sergio Yahe Pallavicini, the chairman of the ISESCO Council for Education and Culture in the West and imam of the Al Wahid Mosque of Milan.

NORTH AMERICA

CANADA

BADAWI, DR JAMAL

Dr Jamal Badawi is an Egyptian-Canadian Muslim preacher and highly sought-after speaker on Islam, a prolific writer, interfaith advocate, and activist. He has authored numerous books on Islam and founded the Islamic Information Foundation in Canada.

WOMEN
MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

ALGERIA

KHEDDAR, CHERIFA

Cherifa Kheddar is the outspoken president and founder of Djazairouna (Our Algeria) Association, which provides support to victims of the Algerian Civil War. She is the winner of the 2009 International Service Human Rights Award for the Defense of the Human Rights of Women.

EGYPT

AL HALAFAWI, JIHAN

Al Halafawi—the wife of a senior member of Alexandria's chapter of the Muslim Brotherhood—is the organization's first female political candidate. She ran for the Egyptian Parliament in 2000 and 2002, but was prevented from winning due to her affiliation with the party. The Muslim Brotherhood is the leading Muslim social and political organization in the world, and although it has long accepted women as members, it has more recently underscored the issue of gender equality as one of its major concerns.

MOROCCO

MERNISSI, FATEMA

Mernissi is a Moroccan feminist writer and sociologist. She has done sociological research for UNESCO and the International Labour Organization as well as for the Moroccan authorities. Mernissi is currently a lecturer at the Mohammed V University of Rabat and a research scholar at the university's Institute for Scientific Research, in the same city. Her work is significant in academic circles in the field of sociology and Middle Eastern Studies and is lauded by Muslim feminists.

IRAN

EBADI, SHIRIN

Shirin Ebadi is a lawyer who, in 2003, became the first Iranian to win the Nobel Peace Prize. She is the founder of Children's Rights Support Association and has defended and supported the rights of children and women. She lectures about the human rights situation in Iran. She espouses a liberal view of Islam appreciated by many Muslim feminists.

EBTEKAR, HER EXCELLENCY DR MASOUMEH

Ebtekar was the first female vice president of Iran. She has remained at the center of the revolutionary movement in Iran, since 1979, and has occupied the highest level of political office to be reached by a woman in the country. She is a considerable force in the reformist movement in Iran, and one of the founding members of the reformist Islamic Iran Participation Front.

HASHEMI, FAEZEH

Iranian politician and social activist known equally for in her role as a Majlis representative as she is for being the younger daughter of powerful politician and former president Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani. She has been a vocal advocate of the relaxation of the dress code in Iran even though she prefers to wear the *chador.*

RAHNAVARD, ZAHRA

Rahnavard is an author and staunch critic of Ahmadinejad. She broke convention by campaigning on her husband Mir-Hossein Mousavi's 2009 presidential campaign, becoming the first woman to do so in Iran. She served as political advisor under President Khatami, and was the first female chancellor of Alzahra University after the Islamic Revolution.

MOROCCO

YASSINE, NADIA

Nadia Yassine is the head of the women's branch of the most powerful Islamist movement in Morocco, Al Adl Wa Al Ihssane. She has traveled to Europe, promoting the mission of the movement to the Moroccan diaspora. She was recently prosecuted for criticizing the monarchy in a weekly newspaper.

ZITAN, NAIMA

Naima Zitan is a Moroccan playwright and drama teacher in the Faculty of Education, and Professor of Animation at the National Museum of Science and Archaeological Heritage. She is also the president of 'Theatre Aquarium'—a theater organization which seeks to publicize the role of women, specifically Muslim women, in Moroccan society. She is an advisor to the Global Fund for Women in Morocco.

JORDAN

HER MAJESTY QUEEN RANIA AL ABDULLAH

Queen Rania is recognized for her philanthropic work. She has pushed for educational reform; fighting for better school facilities and mandatory English-language training. She is also an enthusiastic supporter of the micro-fund movement, which provides financial assistance to would-be entrepreneurs. Queen Rania has an amazingly popular YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/user/QueenRania) and website (www.queenrania.jo).

PALESTINE

EL FAQEEH, KHOULOUD

El Faqeeh is the first female judge in Palestine and one of the first female judges in the Islamic world for a *sharia*-based court. She graduated top of her class at Al Quds University and has her own private practice.

QATAR

AL MISSNED, HER HIGHNESS SHEIKHA MOZAH BINT NASSER

Sheikha Mozah is the wife of the ruler of Qatar, H.H. Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al Thani. She is a public figure; advocating for women's and children's rights. She was the driving force behind Education City and Al Jazeera Children Channel. She holds several political positions, including chair of the Qatar Foundation for Education, Science, and Community Development.

SAUDI ARABIA

ABU-SULAYMAN, MUNA

Muna Abu-Sulayman is executive director of Alwaleed bin Talal Foundation, a philanthropic organization which provides humanitarian assistance to the poor. She is the founding co-host of a popular television show, and in 2005, became the first Saudi woman to be appointed as a UN Goodwill Ambassador.

AL FAIZ, NORAH ABDALLAH

Norah al Faiz is the deputy minister for women's education, becoming the first woman ever to serve in the Saudi Arabia Council of Ministers. She was formerly principal of a girls' school and was director of the women's section at the Institute of Public Administration in Riyadh.

AL HUWAIDER, WAJEHA

Wajeha al Huwaider is a feminist author, poet, and journalist who is a staunch critic of Saudi policies in regards to women. The government banned her from all Saudi media in 2003, and since then she has led numerous high-profile human rights protests, especially concerning the ban on women driving.

SAUDI ARABIA

OLAYAN, LUBNA

Lubna Olayan is internationally recognized as Saudi Arabia's top businesswoman. As a leading investor in the Saudi economy, chief executive officer of the Olayan Financing Company, and a board member for organizations such as Saudi Hollandi Bank, Rolls Royce and Citigroup, among others. She is one of the most influential businesswomen in the world.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCESS HAYA BINT AL HUSSEIN

Princess Haya bint al Hussein of Jordan is married to H.H. Emir Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates and the ruler of Dubai. She is recognized for her efforts in developing initiatives in humanitarianism, sports, health, science, culture and business, as well as advancing the Millennium Development Goals toward the alleviation of hunger and poverty.

EAST AFRICA

SOMALIA

OSMAN, HIBAAQ

A Somali Muslim and women's rights activist, Hibaaq Osman is Special Representative to Africa for V-Day—a movement against violence against women. She is the founder of Karama, a regional movement working to end violence against women in the Arab World. She is also founding CEO of the Arab Women's Fund and founder of the Center for the Strategic Initiatives of Women (CSIW).

WEST AFRICA

MAURITANIA

EL MOKHTAR, AMINETOU

El Mokhtar is a Nouakchott-based human rights lawyer and president of the L'Association des Femmes Chefs de Famille, which defends and supports women heads of households and their children. She is also chair of the African Democracy Forum, a network of organizations promoting democracy.

NIGER

MINDAOUDOU, HER EXCELLENCY DODO AICHATOU

Mindaoudou is the Nigerien Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation, and African Integrity. She has served the government since the mid-1990s, and is the former secretary general for the Network for Rural Law. She has written extensively about economic development and women's issues. She is one of the most senior-level women politicians in West Africa.

ASIA

AFGHANISTAN

SAMAR, DR SIMA

Samar is chairperson of the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission and the UN's Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Sudan. Samar is also the founder and director of the Shuhada Organization in Quetta, Pakistan, a humanitarian organization that assists Afghani women and refugees.

WOMEN

BANGLADESH

WAZED, HER EXCELLENCY SHEIKHA HASINA

Sheikha Hasina is the current prime minister of Bangladesh and the president of one of Bangladesh's major political parties, the Awami League. Poverty reduction is a priority for one of the poorest but most populous Muslim countries in the world. She is the daughter of Muijibur Rahman, the first president of Bangladesh.

CHINA

KADEER, REBIYA

Kadeer is the de facto leader of the movement for social justice for the eight million strong Uighur ethnic-population of China. She was formerly a successful businesswoman but was imprisoned in 2000 for leaking state secrets, and now lives in exile in the United States. She is well known for her work in Europe and North America publicizing the plight of the Uighur ethnic group, and is partially responsible for raising the issue's status both in China and abroad. The Chinese government sees Kadeer as an agitator.

INDONESIA

ALAWIYAAH, PROF. DR TUTI

Alawiyaah was the Indonesian Minister of Women's Empowerment in President Suharto's last cabinet. Alawiyaah is currently the dean of one of Indonesia's oldest and most prominent Islamic educational institutions, the As Syafi'iyah University. She is a prolific preacher and broadens her reach through her regular television appearances on almost all Indonesian television channels.

MULIA, SITI MUSDAH

Siti Mulia is chair of the social organization Muslimat Nahdlatul Ulama—the women's branch of the enormous Indonesian Islamic organization the Nahdlatul Ulama. In 1999, she became the first female professor at the Indonesian Institute of Sciences. She helped produce the Counter Legal Draft, which would have revised the Islamic legal code to ban polygamy and child marriages.

MUNIR, LILY ZAKIYAH

Munir is the founder and director of the Centre for Pesantren and Democracy Studies, an organization educating Islamic boarding schools about human rights and political participation, especially during elections. She was the only woman and only Muslim to serve on the Monitoring Commission for the election in Afghanistan.

ULFAH, HAJJAH MARIA

Hajjah Maria Ulfah is an internationally acclaimed reciter of the Holy Qur'an and is the first woman to win an international Qur'an recitation competition. She has popularized the Egyptian style of recitation and serves as director of the women's department of the Institute for Qur'an Study in Indonesia.

MALAYSIA

ALJEFFRI, SHARIFAH ZURIAH

Sharifah Aljeffri is an artist and curator incorporating the Chinese brush style with Arabic calligraphy to produce unique works of art. She is also an outspoken social activist who founded Sisters in Islam, an organization committed to gender issues and increasing respect for women.

ANWAR, ZAYNAH

Zaynah Anwar is the executive director of Sisters in Islam, an organization committed to gender issues and increasing respect for women. She is also a journalist who has contributed to the New Straits Times and the Star, the country's two main newspapers, and has written a book about Islam in Malaysia.

PAKISTAN

BIBI, MUKHTARAN

After she was sexually assaulted in a much-publicized case, Mukhtaran Bibi, also known as Mukhtar Mai, founded the Mukhtaran Mai Women's Welfare Organization, which aims to educate young girls about women's rights and honour killings. Her memoir is a bestseller, and she has been the subject of a documentary about sexual violence. Her high-profile case has brought a focus in the media on the issue of women's rights. Her influence is very strong in Europe and North America where her cause was popularized, and also in Pakistan itself where the case became a nationally publicized event.

LODI, HER EXCELLENCY AMBASSADOR DR MALEEHA

Maleeha Lodi is a journalist and diplomat. She previously served on the UN Secretary General's Advisory Board on Disarmament Affairs and as ambassador to the US and Britain. Lodi received the President's Award of Hilal-e-Imtiaz for public service in Pakistan.

NAIM, TANVEER KAUSAR

Naim is director of the Science, Technology Research and Training Institute of the OIC standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH). Naim is member of UNESCO's Gender Advisory Board and the UNESCO International Advisory Board for Reform of Higher Education and Science and Technology in Nigeria.

EUROPE

AUSTRIA

DIRIE, WARIS

Dirie is a Somali-Austrian women's rights activist and former international supermodel. She was appointed UNFPA Goodwill Ambassador for the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), and founded several organizations, including the Waris Dirie Foundation, to raise awareness about FGM. She had undergone FGM as a child and seeks to build awareness around the fact that Islam does not require the practice. She has written several bestselling books.

BELGIUM

OZDEMIR, MAHINUR

Ozdemir is a young politician and Europe's first hijab-wearing minister of parliament. She was sworn in to parliament, while wearing a headscarf, in Belgium. The event garnered mass interest in Turkey, where in 1999 Merve Kavakçi was denied the right to take her oath of office because of her hijab. Ozdemir is of Turkish origin. She is a member of the Francophone Christian Democrat party.

TURKEY

GÜL, HAYRÜNNISA

Hayrünnisa Gül is the wife of President Abdullah Gül and is the first First Lady in Turkey to wear the hijab, causing controversy and consternation among some secularist citizens and politicians. In the early 1990s, she appealed to the European Court of Human Rights to overturn Turkey's hijab ban. She is the most visible headscarf wearing person in Turkey and has great influence, both in publicizing the cause of the hijab and also as a figure of hostility for those people fearful of the growing role of the hijab in Turkish society and politics.

UNITED KINGDOM

JANMOHAMED, SHELINA ZAHRA

Shelina Zahra JanMohamed is a British writer and commentator who gained web-based acclaim for her blog 'spirit21'. She has recently become increasingly influential in British media as an author and commentator on the issue of religion and also gender. Her book *Love in a Headscarf* has been very popular among Muslims and has also played a great role in demystifying Muslim life to a non-Muslim audience by narrating a Muslim girl's search for love.

KHAN, IRENE ZUBAIDA

Irene Khan is the secretary general of Amnesty International, becoming the first woman and first Muslim to hold the position. In this position she initiated a campaign against gender-based violence with Amnesty International. Amnesty International is one of the world's most respected organizations, drawing attention to human rights abuses and injustice around the globe. It has over two million members and supporters and enjoys the respect of governments around the world. Previously, she served in various high positions in Macedonia and India for the UNHCR.

NORTH AMERICA

UNITED STATES

ASSILMI, AMINA

Amina Assilmi is a convert to Islam and currently the president of the International Union of Muslim Women. She overcame noteworthy challenges in her conversion, including a custody case that influenced a change in Colorado state law, to the effect that one cannot be denied custody because of religion. In 1996, she successfully lobbied the United States Postal Service for an 'Eid Stamp, organizing children to send the Service their designs.

KAVAKÇI, PROF. DR MERVE

Merve Kavakçi is a lecturer on culture and international affairs at George Washington University. In 1999, she was barred from a position in the Turkish Parliament for refusing to remove her hijab. She is an important symbolic figure for the headscarf issue in Turkey and promotes Muslim women's rights at events all over the world, criticizing Turkey's anti-Islamic policies. She has also memorized the entire Qur'an.

MATTSON, INGRID

Ingrid Mattson is the director of the Islamic Chaplaincy Program and professor at the Hartford Seminary in Hartford, Connecticut. In 2001 she was elected vice president of ISNA and in 2006 she was elected president, becoming the first woman and the first convert to hold such high positions within the organization. ISNA is the largest Muslim organization in North America, and an umbrella organization for numerous local and regional Muslim societies and groups in the United States and Canada.

MOGAHED, DALIA

Dalia Mogahed is the executive director and a senior analyst at the Gallup Center for Muslim Studies and director of the Muslim-West Facts Initiative. She was appointed by President Obama to serve on the Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships. She has also held high positions in the US-Muslim Engagement Project. She is a co-author of the book *Who Speaks for Islam? What a Billion Muslims Really Think.*

UNITED STATES

NIAZ, ROBINA

Robina Niaz is the executive director of Turning Point for Women and Families, a New York City-based domestic violence agency especially for Muslim and South Asian women. She is an active participant in interfaith and women's rights events throughout the city.

WADUD, PROF. DR AMINA

Amina Wadud is a modernist Muslim feminist who controversially led both men and women in Friday prayer in 2005 in New York City. She has re-interpreted women's roles outlined in the Qur'an, in her book *Qur'an and Woman: Rereading the Sacred Text from a Woman's Perspective.* She is currently a visiting scholar at the Starr King School in California. She has been both a figure of respect among Muslims who are keen for more equality in the way that Islam is practiced, but also has been widely criticized by Muslims for her disregard of traditional Islamic legal opinions that prohibit women from leading prayers with a mixed congregation, except in very specific situations.

YOUTH

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

BAHRAIN

AL BAHARNA, SADIQ

Sadiq al Baharna, a business student, has become an inspiration for young social workers through his work in Bahrain mentoring youth who are victims of abuse, have contemplated suicide, or suffer from drug abuse. He has received international awards for best practice in the prevention of child abuse.

EGYPT

HOSNI, MOSTAFA

Mostafa Hosni is a commerce student-turned televangelist who is increasingly influential for his innovative approach to preaching Islam on weekly programs with Saudi satellite channel, Iqraa. A proponent of moderate Islam, Hosni works at an international private school on character development and cultivating a positive religious identity with Egyptian youth.

MASOUD, MOEZ

Founder of Al Tareeq Al Sah (The Right Way) Institute, Moez Masoud is a leading activist for Islamic education and a popular preacher trained in the Islamic sciences recognized for his global influence through media productions on television and on YouTube.

SAUDI ARABIA

AL SHUGAIRI, AHMAD

Al Shugairi is a televangelist with a huge following around the world. He is at the forefront of a religious revivalist movement that is affecting young people across the Middle East. In addition to his work as a television host, he is the founder of the youth-centric coffee shop, Andalus Cafe. With no formal Islamic training and an MBA, his popularity comes from repackaging a balanced understanding of Islam for his throngs of fans of all ages.

WEST AFRICA

GHANA

ABASS, MOHAMMED

Mohammed Abass is the president and spokesperson of the Ghana Muslim Students Association (GMSA) for the Greater Accra Region. Ghana has a substantial Muslim population and an active and growing array of evangelist Christian churches, but has not been the victim of much interfaith tension. The GMSA has been noted for its promotion of community activism and successful attempts to engage with the demands of young Muslims, conducting social work and leadership training for its members and constituents.

ASIA

PAKISTAN

ZARDARI, BILAWAL BHUTTO

Zardari, born in 1988, is the chairman of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), the largest political party in Pakistan. He is the youngest appointee to the position, as of December 2007, after the assassination of his mother Benazir Bhutto, former chairperson of the PPP and Prime Minister of Pakistan.

SINGAPORE

LAZIM, RAZAK MOHAMED

Lazim is chairman of Al Irsyad Al Islamiah Madrasa a multidisciplinary and progressive educational system, of primary and secondary school levels, which instructs students in both religious and secular subjects. The system has developed into a holistic, replicable model of Islamic education that has won a reputation among Muslim pedagogues as the future of Islamic education.

NASSIR, MOHAMMED

Mohammed Nassir is director of SimplyIslam.sg, a Singapore-based virtual portal for 'a new way to learn' Islam through courses with leading Islamic scholars. Nassir is credited for drawing the attention of international Muslim leaders to the Muslim community of Singapore and for his dedicated efforts to developing youth programs.

EUROPE

UNITED KINGDOM

IMRAN, MOHAMMED

Mohammed Imran is founder and CEO of the Muslim Youth Helpline, a volunteer-based confidential helpline for young Muslims based in London, England that provides a network of community support and counseling services through a toll free phone line and interactive website.

OCEANIA

AUSTRALIA

HOULI, BACHAR

Bachar Houli, an up-and-coming athlete within the Australian Football League has become an inspiration to young Muslims as a devout and practicing Muslim who successfully negotiates his religious identity and commitment to the sport of Australian rules football. Houli regularly speaks about his faith to mainstream media outlets. Houli was a 2008 nominee for the AFL Rising Star Award.

NORTH AMERICA

UNITED STATES

ALI, BABA

Ali Ardekani, popularly known as Baba Ali, is a comedian and co-founder of Ummah Films, which produces comedy dealing with everyday issues faced by Muslims. His work has been well received by the New York Times, among other newspapers. He is an Internet celebrity and also performs all over the world.

PATEL, DR EBOO

Eboo Patel is founder and executive director of Interfaith Youth Core, a Chicago-based non-profit organization that brings together religiously diverse youth to participate in interreligious dialogue and community service. Patel writes for the Washington Post's blog, 'On Faith' and is on President Obama's Advisory Council of the Office for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships.

PHILANTHROPY
MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

IRAQ

AL KHOEI, SAYYED JAWAD

Sayyed al Khoei is the secretary general of the London-based Al Khoei International Foundation, an international charity promoting the welfare of Shi'a communities throughout the world. He spends his time between the United Kingdom and his native Iraq.

SAUDI ARABIA

AL FAISAL, HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE MOHAMMED

Prince Mohammed al Faisal has been groundbreaking in the area of Islamic finance, setting up the first modern bank run in compliance with the rules of *sharia*. The Faisal Islamic Bank of Egypt was set up in Cairo in 1977, and aimed to be a model of Islamic banking for future initiatives. He remains the chairman of the board of directors. The bank was set up in Egypt because at the time Saudi Arabia rejected the idea that interest went against Islamic teachings; Islamic banking is founded on the premise of lending without interest.

KREIDIE, DR SAMIR

Kreidie is managing director of the Rabya Trading & Agriculture Company. He is the founder of the Inma Foundation, which helps provide humanitarian support to impoverished people in Lebanon, and a director at Development Foundation International, an organization which strives to increase American participation in Lebanese humanitarian efforts.

AL MADANI, HIS EXCELLENCY DR AHMAD MOHAMED ALI

Al Madani is the president of the Islamic Development Bank, which aims to provide short- and long-term solutions to poverty alleviation in the Muslim world. The Islamic Development Bank is the principal financing institution of the Organization of the Islamic Conference. Previously, he served as the deputy minister of education in Saudi Arabia, and as secretary general of the Muslim World League.

AL SAUD, HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE AL WALEED BIN TALAL BIN ABDUL AZIZ

Prince al Waleed bin Talal is an entrepreneur and investor who has built up a fortune through real estate and the stock market. In early 2009 his net worth was close to $15 billion. His philanthropic clout comes from his position among the richest people in the world. He contributed $20 million to found the Center for Christian-Muslim Understanding at Georgetown University, which remains one of the key institutions globally working on Christian-Muslim relations.

KUWAIT

AL KHARAFI, NASSER

Nasser al Kharafi—one of the richest people in the world—is the president of Kharafi & Sons, one of the largest Middle Eastern companies with an estimated capital of $5 billion. He was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award by H.M. King Abdullah II of Jordan in 2005 for his philanthropic efforts and contributions to relief agencies.

NORTH AMERICA

UNITED STATES

CHEEMA, DR TARIQ H

Dr Cheema is the founder of the World Congress of Muslim Philanthropists, a Chicago-based organization seeking to promote effective and accountable giving. The organization is the premier community of Muslim philanthropists in the world, with a number of high-level stakeholders. Cheema is a physician by profession and in 1998 he co-founded Doctors Worldwide, which provides medical relief in 18 countries. He was formerly the associate director of the Islamic Medical Association of North America.

DEVELOPMENT
MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

BAHRAIN

SHAWQI, FATIMA

Fatima Shawqi is a researcher at Al Tajdeed Cultural & Social Society, and member of the Environmental Citizenship Program of Bahrain. She is also a member of the Women's Association for Human Development, which has initiated groundbreaking efforts in environmental education for kindergarten-age children.

IRAQ

ODHAIB, MADEEHA HASAN

Madeeha Hasan Odhaib is a member of the district council of Karada, in Baghdad, where she leads a community initiative to employ Iraqi women as seamstresses—alleviating poverty in the war-torn region. She is also a dedicated humanitarian who works with the Red Cross and other aid agencies on local relief efforts.

KUWAIT

AL GHONEIM, HIS EXCELLENCY PROF. DR ABDULLAH YUSUF

Al Ghoneim is former minister of education and the director of the Kuwaiti Centre for Research and Studies on Kuwait, an innovative think-tank dedicated to the study of Kuwaiti affairs and particularly to addressing Iraqi aggressions against the country.

LEBANON

FAHS, SHEIKH SEYYED HANI

Sheikh Seyyed Hani Fahs is a member of the Supreme Shi'a Committee in Lebanon, the Permanent Committee for Lebanese Dialogue and a founding member of the Arab Committee for Islamic-Christian Dialogue—comprised of Sunni and Shi'a Muslims and Christian dialogue participants from across the Arab world.

AL SADR, RABAB

Rabab al Sadr is a social and human rights activist and a philanthropist. Rabab is a dynamic thinker and is the president of the Imam al Sadr Foundation, one of the most successful humanitarian organizations working in Lebanon. The foundation's projects in training, development and poverty alleviation work all over Lebanon. She is the sister of Imam Musa al Sadr.

LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA

AL GADDAFI, HIS EXCELLENCY SAIF AL ISLAM MUAMMAR

Al Gaddafi is the president of the Libyan National Association for Drugs and Narcotics Control and founder of the Gaddafi International Charity and Development Foundation, which addresses humanitarian and relief efforts in Libya. Al Gaddafi is noted for his 'Isratine' proposal for a one-state solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. He is likely to be the next leader of Libya.

PALESTINE

ABU AWWAD, ALI

Ali Abu Awwad is a Palestinian activist with the Bereaved Families Forum, a network of Palestinian and Israeli families that have suffered losses due to the crisis and advocates a message of non-violent reconciliation instead of retribution. The loss of a family member affects a disproportionate number of Palestinians and is often the cause for people to seek revenge, which continues the cycle of violence.

PALESTINE

ABU ELAISH, DR IZZELDIN

Dr Izzeldin Abu Elaish is a public health expert and Palestinian peace activist nominated for the 2009 Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts in the region as a gynecologist. He is an outspoken advocate of a lasting Israeli-Palestinian peace.

QATAR

HER EXCELLENCY SHEIKHA AISHA BINT FALEH BIN NASSER AL THANI

Sheikha Aisha Al Thani is the founder of the Doha Academy and board member of Reach Out to Asia, Qatar. She is a modernist development thinker, who promotes a more pronounced and well-judged engagement with people of faith. Her perspective resonates with the more concerted efforts by humanitarian organizations to look at the networks of people of faith as a solution to practical development problems.

HER EXCELLENCY SHEIKHA MAYASSA BINT HAMAD AL THANI

Sheikha Mayassa is the chairperson of Reach Out To Asia an NGO that is under the Qatar Foundation, that contributes to the development of societies in Asia, including the Middle East, with specific emphasis on improving both primary and secondary education quality, in addition to achieving some of the UNESCO's Education For All (EFA) and the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

SAUDI ARABIA

BIN LADEN, BAKR

Bakr bin Laden, half-brother of al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden, is the chairman of the Saudi Binladin Group. The Binladin Group is a sizeable multinational construction company with operations in Saudi Arabia and over 30 countries—making him an increasingly influential power broker in Saudi business capital.

OBAID, THORAYA AHMED

Obaid is the executive director of the United Nations Population Fund, the world's largest multilateral fund for population assistance, and the first Saudi Arabian to head a UN agency. She is also the chair of the principle inter-agency organization for coordinating management matters within the UN. She has underlined religion and culture as important aspects for the agency's development work.

SUDAN

IBRAHIM, DR MOHAMED 'MO'

Mohamed Ibrahim—more commonly known as Mo Ibrahim—is a Sudanese-born entrepreneur, currently based in the UK. He became successful as a businessman in the telecommunications industry, founding one of Africa's biggest cellular phone companies, Celtel. He has recently come to prominence for his idea of a Prize for Achievement in African Leadership—which gives a $5 million initial payment, plus $200,000 a year for life. The Prize was conceived as a way to stop the need for corruption by African leaders, who often resort to corruption to obtain financial security when they leave office, and to promote good governance. The prize is believed to be the world's largest, surpassing the $1.3m Nobel Peace Prize.

OSMAN, SALIH MAHMOUD

Salih Mahmoud Osman is a Sudanese lawyer, human rights advocate and a member of the Sudan National Assembly. Listed in European Voice's 50 most influential people in 2007, Osman also received the 2005 Human Rights Watch Award and the American Bar Association's 2006 International Human Rights Award.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

AL ABBAR, MOHAMMED BIN ALI

Al Abbar is a member of the Executive Board of the Government of Dubai and the director of the Department of Economic Development. Under his leadership Dubai has been one of the fastest growing economies in the world. He has been successful in increasing the financial regulations requiring transparency and openness making Dubai a more attractive place to invest and do business in. He is one of the main assistants of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates, and ruler of Dubai.

AL MAHMOUDI, HUSSEIN MOHAMMAD

Hussein Mohammad al Mahmoudi is director general of the Sharjah Chamber of Commerce & Industry, which is dedicated to improving the standard of living and advancing humanitarian efforts in the region—from educational initiatives (such as Tatweer, a leadership development program) to various social and welfare services and environmental protection projects.

YEMEN

BAOBAID, MOHAMMAD BAOBAID

Baobaid is a Muslim activist working on domestic violence at the University of Sana'a. He advocates for men to combat domestic violence and be part of the solution to the mistreatment of women in Yemen. He is also a project coordinator of the Muslim Family Safety Project, an initiative to help victims of violence in the Muslim community in Ontario.

MIDDLE AFRICA

ANGOLA

DRAME, FAMAR

Drame is founder and vice president of Associacao Islamica de Desenvolvimento de Angola. It is the first and the only Islamic organization in a country of 15 million people and the only Islamic organization recognized and authorized by the government of the Republic of Angola. It is charged with the responsibility to build a mosque with a school attached to it to teach Islamic knowledge, Arabic and Portuguese.

EAST AFRICA

BURUNDI

NKUNDUWIGA, HARUNA

Nkunduwiga is the secretary general of the Muslim Community of Burundi. He has been working recently to battle the HIV/AIDS pandemic in Burundi with other faith leaders to raise awareness, asking people to 'stay clean'. HIV/AIDS is a very serious problem in Burundi, affecting close to 20% of the urban population and near to 10% of the rural population.

KENYA

KHALIFA, SHEIKH MOHAMMED

Khalifa is the organizing secretary of the Council of Imams and Preachers of Kenya, he is also the head of the as yet unregistered Islamic Party of Kenya. Relations between the Muslim population of Kenya and the broader society, especially the government, have frayed recently with the instances of the demonizing of Muslims as terrorists. There is widespread displeasure among the coastal Muslim population with the national government.

MALAWI

CHABULIKA, SHEIKH DINALA

Chabulika is the Islamic Information Bureau's national coordinator. He is known as an Islamic rights

activist and has taken it upon himself to present the need to address social issues as religious duties. He works on health issues, exploitation, and has built bridges with the non-Muslims in Malawi. He has also fought against the forced teaching of religious texts to schoolchildren.

MOZAMBIQUE

CHEBA, SHEIKH MUHAMADE ABOULAI

Cheba is the provincial director of 139 registered *madrassas* (Islamic schools), where pupils start learning about HIV/AIDS as early as six years of age. He raises awareness that the disease is not a divine punishment, and sees mosques as the perfect place for the dissemination of such knowledge. HIV/AIDS affects roughly 15% of the adult population of Mozambique.

SOMALIA

ELMI, ASHA HAJI

Asha Haji Elmi is a peace activist in Somalia who in 2008 won the Right Livelihood Award (known as the alternative Nobel Prize). She is an activist for women's rights and formed the Six Clan movement when women were excluded from the peace process in Somalia that involved the five traditional clans. She is also the founder of Save Somali Women and Children (SSWC) and campaigns internationally against female genital mutilation in Somalia and in other areas of Africa.

WEST AFRICA

BURKINA FASO

ABOUBAKARY, MAIGA

Aboubakary is the secretary general of the Burkina Faso Islamic Organization for Population and Development. His organization promotes family-planning in mosques around the country. The tremendous growth rate in Burkina Faso has put great strain on the economy there, and threatens to sharpen the already serious problem of poverty.

COTE D'IVOIRE (IVORY COAST)

ABDOULAZIZ, SHEIKH SARBA

Abdoulaziz is the leader of the Association Soulatine Pour Les Actions De Bienfaisance. He works in Cote d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso to achieve a sustainable development of Islam, and a fair treatment of Muslims. He has been active at major international conferences trying to deal with the problem of Islamophobia.

NIGERIA

ASHAFA, IMAM MUHAMMAD

IAshafa is the co-director of the Muslim-Christian Interfaith Mediation Centre in the city of Kaduna, Northern Nigeria—leading task forces to resolve conflicts across the country. He works with Christian Pastor James Wuye to promote peace between religions. Both were injured and affected by inter-religious violence. Pastor Wuye and Imam Ashafa have received a wide audience and mass interest in their particular story through speaking on the issue around the world.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICA

CAJEE, ZEINOUL ABEDIEN

Cajee is the CEO of the National Awqaf Foundation of South Africa. The National Awqaf Foundation is an independent community-based and community-owned trust, dedicated to the institution of *Waqf* and the empowerment of communities.

SOUTH AFRICA

JEENAH, NAEEM

Jeenah is a former Muslim Youth Movement (MYM) president. He is a progressive Muslim activist and an international solidarity activist currently working with the Freedom of Expression Institute in Johannesburg, South Africa.

PATEL, EBRAHIM

Patel is the current minister for economic development of South Africa and a former spokesperson for COSATU (the umbrella organization for South African trade unions). He is important because South Africa's booming economy is paradoxically leaving behind much of the population; this is because of both the HIV/AIDS situation and also the fact that South Africa has one of the highest unemployment rates in the world due to mass migration caused by the unstable situation in Zimbabwe.

SOOLIMAN, DR IMTIAZ ISMAIL

Sooliman is the founder of the Gift of the Givers Foundation. It is the largest disaster relief organization of African origin on the African continent. His organization has delivered over $37 million in aid to 25 countries around the world. They have designed and developed the world's first and largest containerized mobile hospital, which has been deployed in Bosnia. It also runs 24 development projects in South Africa and Malawi.

CENTRAL AMERICA

MEXICO

WESTON, OMAR

Weston is a British convert and the head of the Islamic Mexican Cultural Center. He is a founding member of Organizacion Islamica Para America Latina y el Caribe, the Caribbean Muslim Forum, and Campañia Libertad Religiosa y Derechos de Expression, an active group that focuses on religious tolerance and freedom of religious practices. Weston is the director of: Dar as Salam Centre Mexico, Centro Cultural Islamico de Mexico, Viva Halal which assesses and certifies Mexican companies.

SOUTH AMERICA

GUYANA

KHAN, FAIZUL

Faizul Khan has been credited with founding an Islamic school in Guyana at the age of 17 and has played a strategic role in developing Muslim institutions both locally and abroad—particularly in the US, where he is chapter member of the Islamic Society of North America.

ASIA

AFGHANISTAN

SARABI, HER EXCELLENCY DR HABIBA

Habiba Sarabi became the first female governor in Afghanistan in 2005. She is a hematologist by profession, who encourages environmental reform. In 2008, she was honoured by Time Magazine for her help in establishing the country's first national park, Band-e Amir.

BANGLADESH

YUNUS, MOHAMMAD

Mohammad Yunus is the founder of the Grameen Bank. He developed the concept of microcredit for which he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006. The bank is *sharia*-based but not *sharia* compliant; it is pro-poor but takes interest. His efforts to create economic and social development and to help the impoverished escape poverty by providing loans on terms suitable to them and by teaching them a few sound financial principles have been recognized by many international organizations including the King Hussein Foundation, Jordan and UNESCO.

CHINA

MARIAH, MAH

Mariah Mah has been an educator for over 30 years while also continuing her family tradition of carrying out charity work for the underprivileged in various rural areas of China. Along with other volunteers, Mah provides community services including organizing sacrifices during special days in the Islamic calendar, sponsoring underprivileged students and orphans for education, distributing *zakat*, food and clothing to those who need it, and setting up educational centers in remote villages in China.

INDONESIA

ANWAR, SYAFI'I

Anwar is the head of the International Center for Islam and Pluralism; and the chair of the South East Asia Forum for Islam and Democracy. He vocally denounced the fatwa of the Indonesian Ulema Council that deemed pluralism as 'religiously unlawful'. His organization sees education as a key part in the promotion of moderation and works to teach human rights to children in Islamic boarding schools.

MALAYSIA

KADER, MOHIDEEN ABDUL

Kader is vice president of the Consumers' Association of Penang, which works to secure the rights of every person to basic needs, clean and safe environment, and the development of indigenous culture and knowledge. He is also a board member of Citizens International, an NGO working on international political issues.

PAKISTAN

CHAUDRY, CHIEF JUSTICE IFTIKHAR M

Chaudry is the current chief justice of Pakistan. Chaudry was the former president of the Supreme Court Bar Association of Pakistan, and a key leader of the Lawyers' Movement. The movement started when he was suspended by President General Musharraf in March 2007, for refusing to resign from his position.

EDHI, ABDUL SATTAR

Abdul Sattar Edhi is the founder of Edhi Foundation; the largest and most organized social welfare system in Pakistan. For over 50 years, Edhi has devoted his time and resources to help the less fortunate by providing a range of services including a 24-hour emergency service across the country through 300 'Edhi centers',which provide free burial of unclaimed dead bodies. He also funds free hospitals and dispensaries; rehabilitation of drug addicts; shelter for the destitute, orphans and handicapped persons; and national and international relief efforts for victims.

AL QADRI, DR MUHAMMAD TAHIR

Al Qadri is a politician, professor, and the founder of Minhaj ul Qur'an International Worldwide, an organization whose aim is to establish unity and understanding between communities, and also the founder of the Minhaj Welfare Foundation that provides welfare for the needy. He has authored some

450 published works and given more than 6,000 lectures on economics and political studies, religious and social philosophy, law and medical sciences which are aired on international satellite channels such as QTV, PTV Prime and the Islam Channel. He also served as a jurist consult (legal advisor) on Islamic law for the Supreme Court and the Federal Shariah Court of Pakistan and has worked as a specialist adviser on Islamic curricula for the Federal Ministry of Education of Pakistan.

PHILIPPINES

ABUBAKAR, ISMAEL

Abubakar is the former speaker of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao's regional legislative assembly. He is now concentrating on business and interfaith dialogue, convening the Philippine Council for Islam and Democracy. He is from the predominantly Muslim Sama tribe, which garners him a significant amount of respect in dealing with the Muslim militants.

ASKALANI, GENERAL MUHAMMAD NUR

General Askalani is the head of the Ad Hoc Joint Action Group (AHJAG) whose mandate it is to monitor violations of the ceasefire agreement with Muslim militants in the Philippines. He is from the traditionally Muslim Tausug tribe.

RASUL-BERNANDO, AMINA

Rasul-Bernando is a distinguished peace and human rights advocate in Asia. She is the director of the Philippine Council on Islam and Democracy (PCID). She is the recipient of Muslim Democrat of the Year Award from the Center for the Study of Islam and Democracy for her long-term advocacy for democracy and peace in the Muslim Mindanao region. She is also a founding member of a microfinancing organization aimed at Muslim and indigenous women—the Muslim Professional and Business Women Association of the Philippines. As a founding member of the Magbassa Kita Foundation, she was responsible for raising $2 million to fund the foundation's program for literacy in the Muslim and indigenous communities.

THAILAND

LANGPUTEH, DR SUKREE

Langputeh is a former member of the National Reconciliation Commission, which was formed to deal with the social fissure left in the aftermath of the South Thailand insurgency. He is currently an academic at the Thai Center for Muslim and Democratic Development.

SABUR, M ABDUS

Sabur is the secretary general and co-founder of the Asian Resource Foundation and the Asian Muslim Action Network. He is also co-director of the School of Peace Studies and Conflict Transformation in Bangkok. In the nineties he served as coordinator of the Asian Cultural Forum on Development (ACFOD). He has edited a number of publications on peace and dialogue in southeast Asia including *Understanding Human Rights: Perspectives from South Asia*, *Interfaith Conference on the Culture of Peace*, *Globalization and Asian Perspectives for an Alternative Development* and *Towards Peace in Multi-Ethnic Asia.*

EUROPE

BELARUS

KANAPATSKY, IBRAGIM

Kanapatsky is the deputy chairman of the Islamic Association of Belarus. The Islamic Association is currently developing the infrastructure for Muslim communities in Belarus, building a mosque in Minsk, as well as renovating the ancient mosque in Smilovichi and the Muslim cemeteries that exist throughout the country.

BOSNIA

MAHMUTCEHAJIC, HIS EXCELLENCY PROF. DR RUSMIR

Mahmutcehajic is the president of the International Forum Bosnia, and a former vice president of Bosnia-Herzegovina. He has been incredibly important in efforts to heal the ethnic, religious and social divisions that happened as a result of the Bosnian War in the mid-1990s. His projects are some of the most successful at producing real healing between communities. He works particularly in his hometown of Stolac, which is one of the most deeply divided towns in Bosnia.

BULGARIA

HADZHI, HIS EMINENCE MUSTAFA ALISH

Hadzhi is Bulgaria's chief mufti. Bulgaria has recently been referred to as 'Istanbulgaria' because of the importance of Turkish-Bulgarian relations. Hadzhi is important as the leader of the Muslim community in a predominantly Christian state with a large influx of Muslims. Bulgaria's mufti, Mustafa Alish Hadzhi, has recently been in the news because of a decision to prevent the building of a new mosque, and is taking the case to the EU.

FINLAND

ISMAIL, ATIK

Ismail is a famous former professional footballer and a Tatar community leader in the city of Kuopio, Finland. He regularly speaks on television to explain the indigenous brand of Islam of his Tatar community, and debate exponents of more radical interpretations of Islam. He is well received by the Finnish public who can identify with him.

GERMANY

RIEGER, ABU BAKR

Abu Bakr Rieger is the chairman of the European Muslims Union, which aims to be an umbrella organization for various institutions and area entities that serve the broader Muslim community in Europe. He is also the editor of the 'Islamische Zeitung.'

GIBRALTAR

SASRI, MOHAMED

Mohamed Sasri is the president of the Moroccan Workers Association and an advocate of social justice and equality for the Muslims of Gibraltar and immigrant workers in particular. He has been active in the fight for more rights in regards to unemployment benefits for all workers.

SPAIN

ESCUDERO, DR MANSUR A

Escudero is secretary general of the Islamic Commission of Spain, which is outspoken against terrorism perpetrated in the name of Islam, and is a founding member of multiple Islamic institutions in Spain. He gained international attention when he lobbied for permission for Muslims to pray at the former Great Mosque at Cordoba in 2007.

TURKEY

BENLI, FATMA

Fatma Benli is a Turkish lawyer and women's rights advocate, specifically known for her advocacy of Turkish women's right to wear the hijab. Benli is also the vice president of the Women's Rights Association against Discrimination (AKDER). Benli has become especially influential recently due to the continued legal battles on hijab permissibility at universities.

UNITED KINGDOM

AZMI, WAQAR

Waqar Azmi founded the British Federation of Racial Equality Councils and is currently the

chief diversity adviser at the Cabinet Office. In 2001 he became the youngest person from an ethnic minority to have a senior executive role in the private sector, as chairman of Waterhouse Consulting Group. In 2002 Azmi received an OBE for his work.

UNITED KINGDOM

AL BANNA, DR HANY

Al Banna is the co-founder and president of Islamic Relief, the largest Western-based international Muslim relief and development NGO. Established in 1983, the organization provides assistance in over 30 countries worldwide. Queen Elizabeth honoured al Banna's work, giving him an OBE for his services to the community.

OCEANIA

AUSTRALIA

EL MASRI, HAZEM

Hazem el Masri is a professional rugby league footballer for the Bulldogs club of the National Rugby League. A devout Muslim, Masri is a respected figure in his community for his social work with young people.

NORTH AMERICA

CANADA

DOUEIRI, DANY

Doueiri is the Arabic language program coordinator at California State University San Bernardino and co-founder of Islamicity, one of the world's most popular websites on Islam. He is vice president of Human Assistance & Development International, which aims to promote educational development and relief efforts.

SLIMI, IMAM HAMID

Slimi is a Toronto imam and chairman of the Canadian Council of Imams. A writer on terrorism and Islam, Slimi is also the founder and executive director of the Faith of Life Network and was asked to help in the rehabilitation of Guantanamo Bay captive Omar Khadr upon his release.

UNITED STATES

ABDUL-RASHID, IMAM TALIB

Imam Abdul-Rashid is the leader of the Mosque of Islamic Brotherhood (MIB) in Harlem, New York. He is a counselor and advocate for Muslims living with HIV/AIDS and has worked with interfaith organizations and in many prisons as a Muslim chaplain and also has his own monthly radio show.

ABDUR-RAUF, FEISAL

Imam Feisal Abdur-Rauf is founder of American Society for Muslim Advancement (ASMA), a non-profit Islamic organization dedicated to building bridges between American Muslims and the broader public through educational and leadership initiatives such as the 'Muslim Leaders of Tomorrow.' He is also Imam of New York's Masjid Al Farah and author of *What's Right with Islam: A New Vision for Muslims and the West.*

AWAD, NIHAD

Nihad Awad is the national executive director and co-founder of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR). CAIR is the most visible lobby group working on behalf of Muslims in Washington DC. He is a signatory of the letter from Islamic scholars to Christian leaders calling

for understanding between the faiths and is involved in helping Muslims claim employment and civil rights.

UNITED STATES

CADER, RUSHDI ABDUL

Rushdi Abdul Cader is a co-founder and advisory board member of the UMMA Community Clinic. Working to improve the health and wellbeing of the underprivileged, Cader has dedicated his time and passion to helping others since the clinic first opened in 1996.

CLAY, MOHAMMAD ALI

Muhammad Ali is a legendary three-time world heavyweight boxing champion who was crowned Sportsman of the Century in 1999 by 'Sports Illustrated'. He was an incredibly important figure in the civil rights movement in the United States, who used his talent and his wit to draw public awareness to the inequality in American society. He has remained a figure of great influence commentating on injustices where he sees them. Now, in retirement, he travels throughout the world promoting social justice issues.

IDRISS, SHAMIL

Shamil Idriss is the director of the Alliance of Civilization's media fund. Prior to this he was director of the Search for Common Ground Organization where he facilitated the first public visit of Americans to Iran since 1979.

KHAN, MANSUR

Mansur is co-founder of the University Muslim Medical Association of Los Angeles; a full-time medical clinic which serves the city's poorest residents, and has succeeded and grown despite the failure of many other similar charitable clinics.

KHERA, FARHANA

Farhana Khera is the executive director of Muslim Advocates and the National Association of Muslim Lawyers (NAML). Previously, she was counsel to the US Senate Judiciary Committee Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Property Rights and focused on civil liberty issues in the US after September 11,2001.

LATIF, IMAM KHALID

Imam Khalid Latif is the chaplain and director of the Islamic center at New York University and the Muslim chaplain for the New York Police Department. He posts podcasts of his Friday sermons, which are regularly downloaded in 40-50 countries around the world, and works with many organizations within New York on interfaith relations. Interfaith relations remain incredibly important in New York after the events of September 11, 2001.

AL MARAYATI, SALAM

Al Marayati is the executive director of the Muslim Public Affairs Council in Los Angeles. He is a journalist who writes in respected newspapers about the Middle East, Islam, and human rights. Additionally, he has promoted interfaith and cross-cultural dialogue between Muslims and non-Muslim Americans.

NASHASHIBI, RAMI

Rami Nashashibi is the executive director of the Inner-City Muslim Action Network (IMAN), a Chicago-based community organization. A community activist and an advocate for the poor living in inner cities, Nashashibi works on making Islam more relevant and significant to those living in urban areas.

UNITED STATES

OMAR, MANAL

Manal Omar works currently for the Washington DC-based US Institute of Peace (USIP). She was formerly the regional program manager for the Middle East, and Central Asia for Oxfam. For the past 10 years Omar has been working on women's issues on a global level, particularly working for Iraqi women's constitutional rights.

RIAZ, DR KHALID

Riaz is an Illinois-based cardiologist and co-chairman of the Human Development Foundation (HDF). He develops networks in North America for the HDF, which aims to increase the living and educational standards of the poor in Pakistan.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

EGYPT

EL NAGGAR, ZAGHLOUL

El Naggar is an important Egyptian geologist and scholar writing and speaking on science and the Qur'an. He is a fellow of the Islamic Academy of Sciences, and is well respected by the global scientific community for his work on geology. He has published close to 200 academic scholarly articles and scientific studies. He also works for the Arab Development Institute.

IRAN

AGHAZADEH, GHOLAM REZA

Gholam Reza Aghazadeh has been the vice president of the Atomic Energy Organization in Iran since 1997 and is now president of the organization, which is responsible for all nuclear energy operations in the country. He has held various top positions in the post-revolution Iranian government, including minister of petroleum. Nuclear technology has become a national goal in Iran.

GHOLSHANI, DR MEHDI

Mehdi Golshani is a professor of physics and founding chairman of the Faculty of Philosophy of Science at Sharif University of Technology. He has written extensively on Islamic science, arguing for its relevance in the modern world.

KUWAIT

AL SHAMLAN, PROF. DR ALI ABDULLAH

Al Shamlan, a geologist by education, is the director general of the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences, dean of the Faculty of Science at Kuwait University, and vice president of the Academy of Sciences of the Developing World. He served as the minister of higher education from 1988-1992.

SYRIA

DAYEH, KAWKAB AL SABAH MOHAMMAD JAMIL

Kawkab al Sabah Mohammad Jamil Dayeh, deputy minister of health and director of the Bureau of Health, Environment and Population for the General Union of Women, is Syria's newly appointed minister of state for environmental affairs, a position left vacant for the past five years.

ASIA

INDIA

KALAM, HIS EXCELLENCY DR A P J ABDUL

An engineer by profession, Dr A P J Abdul Kalam is a former president of India. Before becoming president, Kalam was the Scientific Adviser to the Defense Minister and Secretary of India's Defense Research and Development Organization from 1992 to 1999, during which he led the weaponization of strategic missile systems and nuclear testing in collaboration with the Department of Atomic Energy. This moved India from being a state with nuclear technology to a state with nuclear weapons. He is also author of *India 2020*, which presents his vision of an Indian superpower by the year 2020.

EUROPE

FINLAND

EL FATATRY, MOHAMED

Mohamed el Fatatry, a Finland-based Egyptian entrepreneur, is chairman and CEO of a social networking website for Muslims, Muxlim.com. The online community, created in 2005, has been recognized as a growing private venture, empowering users with a Muslim-friendly environment for cross-cultural communication.

TURKEY

YAHYA, HARUN

Writing under the pen name Harun Yahya, Adnan Oktar has gained international prominence as a spokesperson for creationism but garners influence from his numerous and extensively distributed publications about Islam, and Islamic children's books.

UNITED KINGDOM

ALI, RANA

Ali is the inventor of Qiblasat, a device that locates *Qibla,* the direction towards Mecca, via GPS (Global Positioning System) and gives accurate prayer times anywhere in the world.

KHALID, FAZLUN

Fazlun Khalid is the founder and director of the Birmingham-based Islamic Foundation for Ecology and Environmental Sciences. He is an expert on Islamic environmentalism, and has written extensively on religion and conservation. He facilitated a 1995 conference where all major faiths pledged to cooperate on environmental issues.

NORTH AMERICA

UNITED STATES

CHAKAKI, MOHAMAD

Mohamad Chakaki is a founding member of Green Muslims, a Washington DC-based group that seeks to relate sustainable environmental policy to faith. He is an environmental and community development consultant working on projects in the US and the Middle East.

EL HIBRI, FUAD

Fuad el Hibri is the CEO and chairman of the board of Emergent BioSolutions Inc., a multinational biopharmaceutical company that is the sole holder of an FDA-approved anthrax vaccine. He is the chairman of the consulting firm East West Resources Corp., and chairman and treasurer of El Hibri Charitable Foundation.

OZ, DR MEHMET

Mehmet Oz is a cardiothoracic surgeon who has been a frequent guest on the Oprah Winfrey Show. He is professor of Cardiac Surgery at Columbia University, leads numerous organizations and charities, and has authored three books about personal health. He will star in his own talk show called 'Dr Oz' in late 2009.

ZEWAIL, AHMED

Ahmed Zewail is a Linus Pauling Professor at the California Institute of Technology who won the 1999 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for his research in femtochemistry. He has recently accepted President Obama's invitation to serve on the Presidential Council of Advisors on Science and Technology.

ARTS AND CULTURE
MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

EGYPT

ABO AUF, DR EZZAT

Abo Auf is president of the Cairo International Film Festival. A successful actor and co-host of the highly popular on-air talk show 'Cairo Today'. Abo Auf is also an accomplished musician, having played with some of today's most celebrated Egyptian musicians.

IRAN

ABEDINI, REZA

Reza Abedini is an Iranian designer and a professor of Graphic Design and Visual Culture at Tehran University. He has won dozens of national and international design awards, including the 2006 Principal Prince Claus Award in recognition of his personal creativity.

NAZERI, SHAHRAM

Shahram Nazeri is a world famous icon of classical Persian, folkloric Kurdish and Sufi music. Hailed as 'Iran's Pavarotti' by the Christian Science Monitor, Nazeri has released over 40 recordings to date and has performed in major venues worldwide.

IRAQ

AL BAGHDADI, ABBAS SHAKIR AL FATTAL

Abbas Shakir al Fattal al Baghdadi is one of the world's foremost exponents of Islamic calligraphy. He was born in 1951 in Baghdad. Al Baghdadi is distinguished in his career as a calligrapher and teacher of calligraphy. He adheres strictly to the rules of classical calligraphy and is adverse to 'modern calligraphy', especially when its practitioners do not master the art in its traditional form. He is well known for the balance, clarity and readability of his works.

JORDAN

AL MEHEID, MINWER

Minwer al Meheid is director of the College of Traditional Arts and Sciences at Balqa University in Amman, Jordan, which trains students in traditional arts. The College's influence is starting to show as wealthy Muslims and others from countries beyond Jordan have commissioned work from its craftsmen. He has been prominent for leading the recreation of the famous Minbar of Salahuddin from old photographs and actual remains.

LEBANON

ASSAF, ROGER

Roger Assaf is a convert to Shi'ism. He is a prominent Lebanese director, actor and playwright. With his actress wife Hanane Hajj-Ali, he co-founded Al Hakawati (Storyteller) Theatre Company and the Shams Cultural Cooperative for Youth in Theatre and Culture, an organization providing underprivileged individuals with a forum for self-expression through drama.

MOROCCO

BUHAIRI, MUHAMMAD AHMAD

Muhammad Buhairi is a prominent Moroccan calligrapher distinguished in the Middle East, and globally, for his skill. He studied at the Mimar Sinan University of Fine Arts, in Turkey, where he received his *ijaza* (certification) in *khat* (script). He has been working at the Institute of Traditional Islamic Art & Architecture in Amman, Jordan.

WEST AFRICA

MALI

KEITA, SALIF

Known as the 'golden voice of Africa', Salif Keita is an Afro-pop singer-songwriter from Mali. His West African music is combined with influences from Europe and the Americas. In 1977 Keita received a National Order Award from Guianese President Sékou Touré. His music is very popular in the Francophone world, and more broadly in Europe.

SENEGAL

N'DOUR, YOUSSOU

Youssou N'dour is a world famous Senegalese composer, singer, percussionist and UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador. In 2005, N'Dour received a Grammy Award for Best Contemporary World Music Album for 'Egypt'. As a cultural icon in Senegal, he is actively involved in social and political issues and is building his own television and radio stations to promote social issues and give Senegalese people a better access to home grown arts.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICA

AMLA, HASHIM

Amla is a South African cricketer. In 2004 he became the first South African team player of Indian descent. As a devout Muslim, he has actively campaigned to remove all alcohol-promoting logos from merchandise and playing gear.

BHIKA, ZAIN

Zain Bhika is a South African singer-songwriter and pioneer performer of *nasheed* songs. He is known for his collaborative efforts with other prominent Muslim entertainers including Yusuf Islam and Dawud Warnsby Ali. Bhika also writes and directs plays written specifically for schools.

SOUTH AMERICA

GUYANA

SHAH, RYHAAN

Ryhaan Shah is considered among the best contemporary writers in Guyana and the Caribbean, best known for her 2005 novel *A Silent Life*. Shah is also an active public figure as the president of the Guyanese Indian Heritage Association.

ASIA

AZERBAIJAN

QASIMOV, ALIM

Alim Qasimov is an Azerbaijani musician and one of most recognized singers of Islamic-folk music in the world. In 1999, he was awarded the prestigious International IMC-UNESCO Music Prize. Qasimov has recorded nine albums, and performed in many concerts around the world.

CHINA

CHENGZHI, ZHANG

Zhang Chengzhi is considered by many to be the most influential contemporary Muslim writer in China. His historical narrative *History of the Soul,* about the rise of the Jahriyya Sufi Tariqah in China's northwest, was the second-most popular book in China in 1994.

CHINA

NOOR DEEN, HAJI (MI GUANG JIANG)

Haji Noor Deen is a globally recognized Chinese master and lecturer in Arabic calligraphy. In 1997 he became the first Chinese Muslim to be awarded the Egyptian Certificate of Arabic Calligraphy and to be admitted as a member of the Association of Egyptian Calligraphy.

YUE, MA

Ma Yue is a Chinese martial artist and national champion of Wushu. His Muslim Hui family's association with marital arts goes back six generations. Yue is a two-time gold medalist and a graduate of the Wushu University of China.

INDIA

KHAN, SHAHRUKH

Named by Newsweek as one of the 50 most powerful people in 2008, Shahrukh Khan is the preeminent Indian Bollywood star, film producer and television host. Khan is the founder and owner of two production companies, Dreamz Unlimited and Red Chillies Entertainment. He campaigns for better relations between India's Muslim and Hindu communities.

RAHMAN, ALLAH RAKHA

A R Rahman is a prolific composer, record producer, and musician for the Indian film industry. He is the first Indian to receive a Golden Globe Award and two Academy Awards for his soundtrack of 'Slumdog Millionaire'. In 2004, Rahman was appointed the Global Ambassador of The Stop TB Partnership, a World Health Organization project.

INDONESIA

ROSA, HELVY TIANA

Helvy Tiana Rosa is a prominent Indonesian writer and an lecturer in literature at the State University of Jakarta (UNJ). Rosa is a member of Majelis Sastra Asia Tenggara (the Southeast Asia Board of Literature) and often represents Indonesia in literary events at home and abroad.

MALAYSIA

RAIHAN

Raihan are a world famous Malaysian *nasheed* group with four members: Che Amran Idris, Abu Bakar Md Yatim, Amran Ibrahim and Zulfadli Bin Mustaza. Since their coming together in 1996, they have made 11 albums and have received numerous awards in Malaysia.

PAKISTAN

AHMAD, SALMAN

Salman Ahmad is a Sufi Muslim and one of Pakistan's most internationally celebrated musicians. With a successful career as guitarist in rock band Junoon, he has performed across the globe. Ahmad is also a UN Goodwill Ambassador for HIV/AIDS with a focus on raising awareness in South Asia.

SINGAPORE

JALIL, ISKANDAR

Iskandar Jalil is a prominent Singaporean ceramicist whose work integrates Japanese and Islamic styles. His art is featured in many international public and private collections. Though retired, Jalil continues to give weekly lectures on pottery at the National University of Singapore.

EUROPE

DENMARK

BACHIRI, ISAM AND QADRI, WAQAS

An award-winning group of diverse hip-hop artists, Bachiri, Qadri and Lenny Martinez (who is not Muslim), form Outlandish—an increasingly influential voice for the Muslim youth around the world—particularly in Europe. They have performed internationally with hip-hop, R&B, and soul musical influence in multiple languages.

FRANCE

DEGHATI, REZA

Reza Deghati, more commonly known simply as Reza, is an internationally acclaimed photojournalist who has reported from all over the world for National Geographic, Vanity Fair, the New York Times Magazine and other reputable publications. He is also the founder of Aina, a nonprofit humanitarian organization dedicated to civil society development through Education, Information, and Communication initiatives.

LATVIA

ULDIS, BERZINS

Berzins Uldis is a Latvian poet and translator. Uldis has been teaching Turkish at the Modern Languages Department of the University of Latvia since 2002 and is known for spending fifteen years on the first translation of the Qur'an in Latvian, published in 2009.

NETHERLANDS

BENALI, ABDELKADER

Abdelkader Benali is a Moroccan-Dutch writer and journalist. For his second novel, *De langverwachte* (The long-awaited one), Benalis received the Libris Prize for Literature. Besides writing novels and theatrical plays, Benali publishes essays and reviews in various media.

EL MOUHANDIZ, RAJAE

Rajae el Mouhandiz is a Dutch-Moroccan-Algerian poet, singer, composer and producer, and founder of the record label Truthseeker Records. After being the first Moroccan to study at a Dutch conservatory, el Mouhandiz left classical music to follow her own artistic path, seeking to incorporate her cultural roots.

TURKEY

YALÇIN, RABIA

Rabia Yalçin is a Turkish fashion designer. Her creations represent a synthesis of local and international cultures and are inspired by the opulence of her homeland's Ottoman past. With her line Rabia Yalçin Haute Couture, Yalçin has a strong presence in the European fashion scene.

UNITED KINGDOM

AZZAM, KHALED

Khaled Azzam is an Egyptian-British architect and the director of the Prince's School of Traditional Arts (PSTA) in London.

ISLAM, YUSUF

Formerly known as Cat Stevens, Yusuf Islam is a globally influential British musician and singer-songwriter. In 1977, he converted to Islam and left the music industry for educational and philanthropic causes. His international fame and high-regard has made him probably the single most influential figure in the field of arts and culture in the Muslim world. In the past five years he has made a gradual return to music with his latest albums 'An Other Cup' and 'Roadsinger'.

UNITED KINGDOM

SANDERS, PETER

Sanders is a notable photographer and convert to Islam. He was granted exclusive privileges to photograph Hajj pilgrimage rituals in 1971, and subsequently has become an influential figure in photography as author of *In the Shade of the Tree*, *A Visit to A Prophet*, and other books that display his exploration of the Muslim world.

YUSUF, SAMI

Sami Yusuf is a superstar in the Muslim music industry. He is an internationally popular British singer-songwriter whose music has revolutionized the *nasheed* industry. Yusuf's music is mostly comprised of Islamic themes—about being a Muslim in today's world. He is also known for his extensive involvement in charity work. His songs enjoy a broad appeal with all age groups in many parts of the Muslim world and in Europe and North America.

OCEANIA

AUSTRALIA

CARLAND, SUSAN AND DEBAB, JEHAD

Susan Carland is a well-known Australian convert to Islam who has been a regular panelist on the Muslim community talk show 'Salam Café'. In 2004, Carland was awarded the Australian Muslim of the Year Award. Jehad Debab is director of 'Salam Café'. In 2005, the program was awarded the award for Best Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Program and Best Faith-Based and Spiritual Development Program at the Antennas Awards; Australia's national community-television awards.

NORTH AMERICA

CANADA

ALI, DAWUD WHARNSBY

Dawud Wharnsby Ali is a singer-songwriter and performer, most famous for his ten albums featuring English language *nasheed*. His music is eclectic and inspirational. He has collaborated with many musicians and has hosted various television programs, including an internationally distributed film about the Muslim experience in Canada.

AMIR, AMIN

Amin Amir is a controversial Somali-Canadian artist whose political cartoons address issues faced by Somalis living at home and abroad. He maintains a website where he sells his work, and won the 2007 Exploration Grant of Edmonton.

K'NAAN (KANAAN WARSAME)

K'naan is a Somali-Canadian poet, rapper and musician who has produced three critically acclaimed albums. He is lauded for his honest presentation of social and political issues through a blend of traditional Somali and modern hip-hop music.

CANADA

NAWAZ, ZARQA

Zarqa Nawaz is a journalist and filmmaker who produced the award-winning Canadian sitcom 'Little Mosque on the Prairie', a comedy about a Muslim family living in Saskatchewan. She owns a company called FUNdamentalist Films that produces films about Muslims living in North America.

UNITED STATES

CHAPPELLE, DAVE

Dave Chapelle is a comedian who starred in a two-time Emmy Award-winning weekly television program called 'Chappelle's Show'. Since he ended the show, he has produced the documentary 'Dave Chappelle's Block Party' in 2006. He is also producer of 'Allah Made Me Funny—the Official Muslim Comedy Tour' film.

HAMMAD, SUHEIR

Suheir Hammad is a poet and writer whose work represents her Palestinian heritage and identity as a Muslim woman. She was signed by Russell Simmons to Def Poetry Jam and subsequently went on tour.

MEMON, JAVED

Javed Memon, also known as HijabMan, is a young social entrepreneur. With a website that gets 30,000 hits per day, Memon has globally launched an innovative business selling t-shirts with catchy slogans (like 'My name causes national security alerts. What does yours do?') after being featured on Comedy Central's Colbert Report.

MOS DEF

Mos Def—born Dante Terrell Smith—is a hip-hop artist who has recently become more popular for his acting career, which garnered Emmy and Golden Globe nominations. He is noted for his stance against the misinterpretation of the Qur'an.

SULAIMAN, AMIR

Amir Sulaiman is an acclaimed rapper who has performed on HBO's Def Poetry showcase and toured North America with spoken word performances that address social justice and issues of everyday life. Sulaiman is considered a leading community activist.

USMAN, AZHAR

A prolific comedian and co-founder of 'Allah Made me Funny', featured in over 100 world media outlets, Azhar Usman is star and creator of 'Tinku's World' (an online comedy show) and is a leading American Muslim on the international comedy scene.

ZAKARIYA, MOHAMED

An engineer by training, Mohamed Zakariya is now an award-winning Arabic calligrapher whose work is displayed all over the United States. In 2001, he designed the 'Eid holiday stamp for the United States Postal Service and in 2002, he was featured in the PBS documentary 'Muhammad: Legacy of a Prophet'.

QUR'AN RECITERS

The recitation of the Qur'an is a special practice that is valued by Muslim communities across the world. The art of recorded Qur'an recitation has become incredibly popular, reaching its apogee with the late Egyptian Sheikh Abd al Basit Abd al Samid (d. 1988 CE), who is still the single most popular *muqri* (reciter) in the world. The word *Qur'an* literally means 'the recitation' referring its origins as an oral text. The following are the 10 most popular Qur'an reciters among different communities around the world.

CROATIA

ALILI, HAFIZ AZIZ

Alili is a Macedonian who was trained in Qur'anic recitation in Sarajevo. He is increasingly influential for his *nasheed* and more so for his distinct style of recitation. He is currently the imam of Medžlis Islamske Zajednice in Zagreb, Croatia.

EGYPT

TIBLAWI, SHEIKH MOHAMMAD

Tiblawi is a popular Egyptian Qur'an reciter. He gained popularity in the Middle East after studying at Al Azhar—the second oldest university in the world, founded in 975 CE—and reciting on Egyptian television in 1956. Since then, he has been widely recognized as a leading reciter of the Qur'an and has recited for royalty and at prominent international events.

INDONESIA

ULFAH, HAJJAH MARIA

One of Indonesia's leading reciters of Qur'an, Hajjah Maria Ulfah is internationally acclaimed as a master and teacher of Qur'anic recitation. She has toured the world with her recitations and is currently a lecturer at the Institute for the Study of Qur'an and the National Islamic University, Indonesia.

KUWAIT

AL AFASY, SHEIKH MISHARY BIN RASHID

Al Afasy is a globally influential reciter of the Holy Qur'an, an imam at Masjid al Kabir in Kuwait, and a singer of Arabic language *nasheed*. He has gained international acclaim for his innovative use of technology to promote Islam, through two satellite channels, a website (www.alafasy.com), and videos on YouTube.

SAUDI ARABIA

AL AJMI, SHEIKH AHMED ALI

Al Ajmi is a Qur'an reciter from Khobar Province in Saudi Arabia. He has studied Qur'anic interpretation in Saudi Arabia and subsequently in Pakistan prior to gaining prominence for his recitation style as an Imam at mosques in Khobar and now in Jeddah.

AL GHAMDI, SHEIKH SA'D IBN SA'ID

Al Ghamdi is a world-famous reciter of the Qur'an. He has served as Imam to Muslim communities across the globe and is currently the Imam of Kanoo Mosque in Dammam, Saudi Arabia. He has studied *Usul ad Din* (fundamentals of religion) and *isnad* (chain of narration of *Hadith*) and is recognized as an influential Saudi theologian.

SAUDI ARABIA

AL MU'AYQALI, SHEIKH MAHIR BIN HAMAD

Al Mu'ayqali is an imam at the Grand Mosque in Mecca. He is an influential reciter of the Qur'an, which he memorized with distinguished scholars in Medina. Al Mu'ayqali left his career as a mathematics teacher to become a scholar in Mecca and is now a popular preacher and teacher of Qur'anic studies.

AL SHATRI, SHEIKH ABU BAKR

Al Shatri is an imam in Jeddah, and a leading reciter of the Qur'an. Although he studied accountancy, he has become increasingly influential for his recitation at international Islamic events and particularly across the Middle East and in Saudi Arabia.

AL SHURAIM, SHEIKH ABU IBRAHIM SA'UD IBN MUHAMMAD

Al Shuraim is a leading reciter of the Qur'an known for his unique recitation style across the world. He formally studied *Usul ad Din* (fundamentals of religion) in Saudi Arabia, before becoming a teacher, and subsequently imam at the Grand Mosque in Mecca.

AL SUDAIS, SHEIKH ABDUL RAHMAN

Al Sudais has international influence through his recitation of the Qur'an, which he memorized at age 12. Currently, an imam at the Grand Mosque in Mecca, he has studied *sharia* at Riyadh University, Imam Muhammad bin Saud Islamic University, and Umm al Qura University. Al Sudais is also popular for his sermons and stance on peaceful conflict-resolution.

MEDIA

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

EGYPT

ABULMAGD, HIS EXCELLENCY PROF. DR KAMAL

Abulmagd is an important intellectual in Egypt and the wider Arab world, who holds significant influence over media relations and public diplomacy in the Middle East. Shortly after September 11 2001 Abulmagd was appointed the Commissioner Responsible for Dialogue Between Civilizations by the Arab League. Abulmagd is influential as the deputy chairman of the Egyptian National Council for Human Rights. He is noted as one of the most influential 'new Islamist' thinkers. He was previously Egypt's information minister and is currently a professor of International law.

HEIKAL, MOHAMMAD HASSANEIN

Mohammad Hassanein Heikal is a prominent and influential Egyptian journalist and social commentator. He has been a respected observer of Arab affairs for over 50 years, and from 1957 to 1974 was editor-in-chief of Al Ahram Newspaper in Cairo. He covered the 2008 US elections for Al Jazeera, which also broadcasts his lectures.

HOWEIDY, DR FAHMY

Howeidy is one of the leading columnists in the Arab world. He writes in the Egyptian daily Al Ahram, where he is the deputy editor-in-chief, however his articles are syndicated to seven other Arabic publications. He is influential both through his popularity and the fact that he has highlighted issues concerning Muslim communities outside the Arab world in groundbreaking work on Chinese, Bosnian, and Senegalese Muslims, among others. Muslims appreciate and respond well to his use of Islam as a frame of reference in his articles.

SCHLEIFER, PROF. DR SULEIMAN ABDALLAH

Abdallah Schleifer is a Middle East expert who has covered the region for over 30 years. He has worked for NBC and many other international media outlets. A professor emeritus at the American University in Cairo, Schleifer is considered a bridge-builder between cultures.

KUWAIT

AL MUTAWA, JASSEM

Jassem al Mutawa is the president of Iqra satellite channel, an Islamic TV channel presenting programs on everyday life problems concerning spiritual, cultural, social and economic issues from a modern Islamic perspective.

AL MUTAWA, DR NAIF

Naif al Mutawa is founder and CEO of Teshkeel Media Group and creator of the popular Islamic-themed comic series 'The 99'. In addition to having authored multiple children's books, Al Mutawa holds a PhD in clinical psychology and has practiced in the field for many years.

SWEIDAN, SHEIKH DR TARIQ

Tariq Sweidan is the CEO and owner of Gulf Innovation Group in Kuwait and the general manager of Al Resalah Satellite TV. An entrepreneur and a TV personality—his shows ranking among the highest in the Middle East—Sweidan is also prominent as a motivational speaker and for his books on Islam.

PALESTINE

KHANFAR, WADDAH

Khanfar is the director general of the Al Jazeera network, a position he has held since 2006. He began his career as a war correspondent and has been instrumental in carving out Al Jazeera's position as the most watched, most respected news network in the Middle East, and more recently its expansion into other markets with Al Jazeera English. Al Jazeera's ethical decision to interview Israeli officials has been groundbreaking in promoting the idea that all perspectives should be broadcast on an Arabic-language news program.

KUTTAB, DAOUD

Kuttab is an internationally recognized Palestinian media activist, and journalist. He founded the Institute of Modern Media at Al Quds University, established the Jerusalem Film Institute and helped in establishing the Arabic Media Internet Network (AMIN). In 2007, Kuttab established AmmanNet.net, the Arab world's first Internet radio station.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

PHILIPS, DR ABU AMEENAH BILAL

A notable convert and Islamic scholar, Philips is founder of the virtual educational institution Islamic Online University and Discover Islam, an Islamic center based in Dubai. He reaches mass Muslim audiences through his television appearances on India-based satellite channel, Peace TV.

AL ROSTAMANI, DR AMINA

Al Rostamani is CEO of TECOM Investments Corporation, the investment wing of the Dubai Technology and Media Free Trade Zone since July of 2005. Al Rostamani obtained the rank of 80 out of the 100 most powerful figures in the Arab World 2009.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICA

HAFFAJEE, FERIAL

Haffajee is editor of the 'Mail and Guardian'; South Africa's premier investigative newspaper. She was the first non-white woman, and first Muslim woman to become the editor of a major daily newspaper.

MORTON, SHAFIQ

Shafiq Morton is an award-winning journalist, photographer and presenter of the current affairs program 'Drivertime Show' on the Muslim radio station Voice of the Cape.

ASIA

INDONESIA

BAGIR, HAIDAR

Haidar Bagir is the founder and director of Mizan, a large publishing company that significantly shapes the development of Islamic discourse in Indonesia. He has founded and lectured-in many educational institutions, and his philanthropic contributions include work with an organization that focuses on community development. He has written extensively on Sufism.

EUROPE

NETHERLANDS

DAMI, ABDELLAH

Abdellah Dami is the presenter of several Dutch TV shows that address Islamic issues in Holland and Europe. He also hosts a weekly show on national radio aimed at young people on which he discusses and advises on matters of Islam and interfaith relations.

MIRZA, UMAR

Umar Mirza is chief editor of Wijblijvenhier.nl, the biggest Muslim weblog in the Netherlands and president of the Al Hidayah organization, which organizes Islamic courses, seminars and festivals throughout the country.

TURKEY

BULAÇ, ALI

Ali Bulaç is an influential pro-Islamic intellectual and journalist who writes about Islam, social change, and politics. He writes for the popular daily newspaper 'Zaman' and promotes the advantage of Islamic values and the revival of Islamic intellectualism in contemporary Turkey.

DUMANLI, EKREM

Ekrem Dumanli is the general broadcasting manager of 'Zaman', a popular Turkish daily newspaper with close ties to the Gülen movement. He has published five books and has written a play.

UNITED KINGDOM

ALIBHAI-BROWN, YASMIN

Yasmin Alibhai-Brown is a British journalist and author. She writes regularly for 'The Independent' and the 'Evening Standard' and is a noted commentator on issues of immigration, diversity and multiculturalism in Britain. She has received many awards and was appointed Order of the British Empire (MBE) in 2001, which she later returned.

ATWAN, ABDEL BARI

Abdel Bari Atwan is a prominent Palestinian-British journalist and editor-in-chief of the major daily Arabic newspaper 'Al Quds Al Arabi'. An expert on Middle Eastern and current affairs, Atwan is a leading writer and commentator, making regular appearances as a media consultant on major news networks.

BAIG, ANILA

Anila Baig is a feature writer for UK's highest-circulated tabloid newspaper, 'The Sun'. She won the Regional Press Award in 2004.

JOSEPH, SARAH

Sarah Joseph is the editor of 'Emel Magazine'. She has become influential as commentator on Islam in Britain through her work as a speaker, publisher and broadcaster over the past decade. Her novel idea of creating a Muslim lifestyle magazine that focuses on the lives of normal people has played a significant part in changing the expectations of British Muslims with regards to Islamic publications. Emel also commands a readership of interested non-Muslims.

KHAN, RIZWAN

Rizwan Khan—known more commonly as Riz Khan—is a British television news reporter and interviewer of prominent personalities. He gained international prominence while working for the BBC and CNN in senior anchor positions, before moving to Al Jazeera English, where he currently hosts his own political talk show. He was born in the former South Yemen.

UNITED KINGDOM

NAHDI, FUAD

Fuad Nahdi is founding editor of 'Q News' a leading British Muslim magazine and director of The Radical Middle Way, a UK-based Muslim initiative set-up to promote youth activism, authentic Islamic scholarship and education and the development of a distinct British Muslim identity.

OMAAR, RAGEH

Rageh Omaar is a television news presenter and writer who was stationed and reported on Iraq and South Africa. He was the world affairs correspondent for the BBC from 1991 until 2006 when he moved to Al Jazeera English, where he currently presents the documentary series 'Witness'.

SARDAR, ZIAUDDIN

Sardar is a London-based scholar, writer and cultural-critic who specializes in contemporary Islam, science and cultural relations. He has published close to 50 books on subjects from the future of Islam to critiques of postmodernism, contemporary aspects of science in Muslim societies, colonialism, cultural relations, literary criticism, and travel.

NORTH AMERICA

CANADA

BAKSH, NAZIM

Baksh is a Canadian Broadcasting Corporation television and radio producer specializing in root causes of terrorism. He also covers issues relating to traditionalist Islam. He is a former Massey Fellow and has produced the international affairs radio program 'Dispatches' since 2000.

UNITED STATES

AMANULLAH, SHAHED

Shahed Amanullah is the editor-in-chief of altmuslim.com, a website dedicated to opinions and social analyses from the Muslim world. An award-winning journalist, Amanuallah is also the creator of a number of websites that serve as resources for Muslim products and mosques.

AMANAT, OMAR

Omar Amanat is an entrepreneur, and successful businessman. He founded Tradescape Corporation before its sale to E*Trade in 2002 for $280 million. Amanat is the founder of Summit Entertainment, a production and distribution studio in Hollywood worth $1 billion that created the popular sitcom 'Aliens in America'. 'The Wall Street Journal' named him one of the 'Top Ten Most Influential Technologists'.

CANON, ANAS

Anas Canon is a DJ and director and executive producer of the record label Remarkable Current, which promotes Muslim acts and talent, especially within the hip-hop genre. The label features international artists including Mos Def and Ahbab Al Mustafa and sponsors performance arts events all over the world.

GODLAS, DR ALAN

Godlas is an American academic focusing on Islamic mysticism. He is most well known for his Islamic studies (www.uga.edu/islam/) and Sufism websites that are highly regarded as leading academic resources for the research on Islam.

UNITED STATES

GOUVERNEUR, AISHA

Aisha Gouverneur is the founder of the Islamic Texts Society and director of the non-profit, charitable foundation and publishing company Fons Vitae. Gouverneur is the co-writer of *The Life of the Prophet Muhammad.*

LEKOVIC, EDINA

Edina Lekovic is an outspoken Muslim advocate and communications director at the Muslim Public Affairs Council (MPAC). She is prominent for her appearances as a spokesperson on major media outlets such as CNN, MSNBC, BBC, FOX News and various print publications.

TAYLOR, TAYYIBAH

Tayyibah Taylor is the founder, publisher, and editor-in-chief of 'Azizah', a magazine for American Muslim women. She is the former administrator and co-founder of the Islamic School of Seattle and has worked on many interfaith programmes and initiatives and has lectured throughout the world on Islam and women.

WOLFE, MICHAEL

Michael Wolfe is the president and executive producer of Unity Productions Foundation, which promotes peace through media. He has written a number of works on Islam and also hosted a televised account of the Hajj for 'Nightline' in 1997 that was nominated for several awards.

ZAKARIA, FAREED

Fareed Zakaria is one of the United States' foremost public intellectuals. He is a political commentator, journalist, bestselling author, and TV host specializing in international affairs. He has been editor of 'Newsweek International' since 2000, and was former editor of 'Foreign Affairs', and has hosted several political shows, his current being 'Fareed Zakaria GPS' on CNN.

RADICALS

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

EGYPT

AL ZAWAHIRI, AYMAN

Ayman al Zawahiri is considered the second-in-command, and the key ideological leader of Al Qaeda. An alleged radical since age 15 he continued to become the leader of Egypt's Islamic Jihad. He is author of numerous Al Qaeda statements.

IRAQ

AL BAGHDADI, ABU OMAR

Abu Omar Al Baghdadi is the alleged leader of Al Qaeda in Iraq. A reclusive figure whose existence remains in question, it has been claimed by the Iraqi security forces that he has been captured—a report that has been refuted by the American government.

SAUDI ARABIA

BIN LADEN, OSAMA

Osama Bin Laden is the son of a wealthy Saudi businessman. The leader of Al Qaeda, he is considered the most wanted man internationally for several terrorist attacks—the largest of which were the September 11 attacks in New York City, that resulted in the deaths of 3000 civilians.

AL MADKHALI, SHEIKH RABI' IBN HAADI 'UMAYR

Sheikh Rabi' Ibn Haadi 'Umayr al Madkhali is one of the most radical thinkers in the Salafi movement. He is an influential writer and speaker, whose influence has lead to an independent faction within Salafism; his adherents are known as Madkhali Salafis. Madkhali Salafis make up one of the most significant and influential branches inside the Salafi movement.

AL HAWALI, DR SAFAR BIN ABDUL-RAHMAN

Safar bin Abdul-Rahman al Hawali is a Saudi Salafi Islamic scholar who lives in Mecca. Earning a doctorate in Islamic Theology from Umm al Qura University, he was imprisoned during the 1990s for inciting people against the Saudi government. He was one of the founders of the Sahwa (Awakening) movement in Saudi Arabia.

ASIA

AFGHANISTAN

HEKMATYAR, GULBUDDIN

Former prime minister of Afghanistan (1993-1994, 1996), Gulbuddin Hekmatyar has been deemed a 'Specially Designated Global International Terrorist' by the US Department of State for links with Al Qaeda and the Taliban. He is also founder of the Hezb-e-Islami political party that was founded as a *mujahiddeen* force against the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan but developed into a militant group that is responsible for numerous attacks, including those against civilians.

OMAR, MULLAH MUHAMMAD

Mullah Muhammad Omar is the reclusive leader of Afghanistan's Taliban. A prominent figure during Afghanistan's struggle against Soviet occupation, he is better known for his support of Osama Bin Laden. He is believed to be directing the Taliban in their war against NATO and Afghanistan forces.

PAKISTAN

MEHSUD, BAITULLAH

Baitullah Mehsud is a Pashtun from the Mehsud tribe. A prominent figure in the Waziristan tribal region of Pakistan, he was instrumental in the short-lived Srarogha peace accord between government forces and the newly formed Taliban of Pakistan. He allegedly ordered the assassination of former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

SAEED, HAFIZ MOHAMMAD

Hafiz Muhammad Saeed is the supposed leader of Jama'at ud Da'wah, Pakistan. He is formerly a professor of Islamic Studies at the University of Engineering and Technology, Lahore, Pakistan. His group is suggested to have inflicted severe causalities on Indian forces in the disputed Kashmir region as well as terror attacks on the Indian parliament house in New Delhi. He is the founder of the Pakistani-based Lashkar-e-Taiba militant group, which is alleged to have organized the 2008 Mumbai attacks.

PALESTINE-JORDAN

AL MAQDISI, ABU MUHAMMAD ASEM

This is the assumed name of Isam Mohammad Tahir al Barqawi, an Islamist Jordanian-Palestinian writer. He has been most influential as the spiritual mentor of Jordanian terrorist Abu Musab al Zarqawi—the initial leader of Al Qaeda in Iraq. He is currently in the custody of the Jordanian government. His pro-militant website (www.tawheed.ws) continues to operate.

INDIAN-ADMINISTERED KASHMIR

AZHAR, MAULANA MASOOD

Maulana Masood Azhar is a Muslim separatist fighting in Indian-administered Kashmir. He is the supposed leader of Jaish-e-Mohammad, which is accused of many deadly attacks on Indian targets, one of which targeted the parliament house in Delhi in December 2001.

INDONESIA

BASHIR, ABU BAKAR

Abu Bakar Bashir is an Indonesian Muslim cleric and leader of the Indonesian Mujahedeen Council (MMI). He runs the Al Mukmin boarding school in Ngruki, Central Java. It is alleged that he is the spiritual head of Jemaah Islamiyah with supposed links to Al Qaeda; a suggestion he has denied, stating that he does not believe Jemaah Islamiyah exists.

INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC NETWORKS

This list includes influential leaders from the Top 50 and next 450 entries from the categorized lists, for their ability to command a massive following and to lead global movements.

INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC FIQH ACADEMY

MAJMA AL FIQH

GLOBAL

AL ABBADI, HIS EXCELLENCY ABDUL SALAM

The International Islamic Fiqh Academy is an agency of the Organization of the Islamic Conference. It was set up by representatives from all Muslim majority countries at the Third International Islamic Summit in 2005 to provide the global Muslim populace a singular legal body. It remains the leading inter-sectarian institution for definitive legal rulings on Islam, and has a particular focus on contemporary social and political problems, and interpreting Islamic law in an international legal context.

MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD

AL IKHWAN AL MUSLIMEEN

EGYPT

AKEF, MOHAMMED MAHDI

Mohammad Mahdi Akef became Supreme Guide of the Muslim Brotherhood in 2004 and has since led the largest Islamist political party, worldwide. The Muslim Brotherhood, or *Al Ikhwan Al Muslimeen* organizes political dissent in Egypt, recently having arranged mass protests criticizing the conflict in Gaza, and demanded an apology from the Pope in Jordan, all in the face of mounting criticism against the Brotherhood's beliefs and practices. The Muslim Brotherhood is active throughout the Middle East, North Africa and also in many Western countries.

HIZB UT TAHRIR

JORDAN

ABU RASHTA, ATA

Ata Abu Rashta is the global leader of the Islamic political party Hizb ut Tahrir. Having worked closely with the founder of Hizb ut Tahrir—Taqiuddin an Nabhani—Abu Rashta became prominent in Jordan during the Persian Gulf War when he contested the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and then became the leader of the party in 2003. Hizb ut Tahrir is popular in the Levant, the former Soviet Union, South and South East Asia, and in Western Europe.

THE ROYAL AAL AL BAYT INSTITUTE FOR ISLAMIC THOUGHT

JORDAN

The Royal Aal al Bayt Institute for Islamic Thought is an independent international non-governmental institute headquartered in Amman, the capital of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. The Royal Academy of the Royal Aal al Bayt Institute was officially established by law, with 100 leading

scholars of Islam as Senior Fellows, appointed from all over the world by Royal Decree. The institute's various aims are to serve the Islamic community worldwide through sound scholarly work, dispelling misconceptions and fallacies about Islam and fostering dialogue and cooperation between different schools of Islamic jurisprudence.

GÜLEN MOVEMENT

TURKEY

GÜLEN, FETHULLAH

Fethullah Gülen is a preacher, thinker and educator, who having assumed the leadership of a religious movement Nurcu—started by Said Nursî (1878-1960 CE)—has gone on to become a global phenomenon in his own right. His popularity and authority in Turkey has been the driving force of the social movement that is widely thought to have brought around the social and eventually political changes of which politician Recep Tayyip Erdogan has been the ultimate heir—that is the enfranchisement of Muslim politics in Turkey. Despite his peaceful means of preaching and community organization, Gülen is hated by the secularist establishment in Turkey and has been living in the US since 1999. The Gülen Movement started out as a distinctly Turkish movement but has since spread worldwide. Gülen has schools in almost every corner of the globe.

HEZBOLLAH

LEBANON

NASRALLAH, SEYYED HASAN

Seyyed Hasan Nasrallah is the current and third secretary general of Hezbollah (the Party of God). Hezbollah is a Twelver Shi'a Islamic political party and paramilitary organization based in Lebanon. Political and military successes have made Nasrallah a vastly influential figure in Lebanon, and in the Middle East more broadly. Hezbollah's ideology is based on seeking social justice through Islamic ideals. Hezbollah appears at first to be a Lebanese national party, however its broad support from across the Middle East from individuals and communities supporting the idea of revolutionary Shi'ism have made it a global network. It has a significant following in Iran and Syria.

MARJAIYYA

IRAQ

SISTANI, HIS EMINENCE GRAND AYATOLLAH ALI HUSSEINI

Ali Husseini Sistani, a Grand Ayatollah and Twelver Shi'a *marja* is currently the highest-ranking Shi'a religious scholar in Iraq and leads the seminary of traditional Shi'a Islamic studies in Najaf. Since the Iraq war, Sistani has played a wider political role in Iraq. He has been referred to as a key figure in the so-called 'Shi'a revival', for his central place in the *Marjaiyya* (the community of *Marjas*).

TABLIGHI JAMAAT

PAKISTAN

ABD AL WAHHAB, HAJJI MOHAMMED

Abd al Wahhab is the leader of the Pakistan-based organization, Tablighi Jamaat, which has chapters in 120 countries. The movement's Raiwind Tablighi Ijtima annual conference, in the Punjab, Pakistan drew 1.5 million attendees in 2008. With approximately three million members attending the annual Biswa Ijtima conference in Bangladesh, the Tablighi Jamaat is an increasingly influential Muslim network from South Asia.

ISSUES OF THE DAY

This list includes influential leaders from the Top 50 and following categorized lists who have been key figures, or whose influence has been pertinent, in major world events and topical issues in the past year.

INTERFAITH

GLOBAL

THE 'A COMMON WORD' GROUP

This group of 138 Islamic scholars and clerics is the catalyst behind a global bridge-building effort between Christians and Muslims. 'A Common Word Between Us and You' is an open letter issued from the Muslim leaders to Christians about the common ground between both religious communities, highlighting points of commonality found in the commandment to love God and one's neighbor. (www.acommonword.com)

ENVIRONMENT

UNITED STATES

NASR, SEYYID HOSSEIN

Nasr has tackled issues regarding the environment from a scholarly perspective, leading a movement to use Islamic teachings to help in the fight against climate change. The term he employs is 'eco-theology'. His is an important contribution in advocacy that promotes environmentalism underscored as a matter of religious duty.

AIDS/HIV

SOUTH AFRICA

ESACK, FARID

Farid Esack run a faith-based organization in the field of HIV and AIDS. His organization, Positive Muslims, was established in 2000. It offers services from an Islamic perspective. Encouraging compassion, mercy and non-judgementalism towards all humankind. South Africa is one of the areas worst affected by the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

NUCLEAR IRAN

IRAN

AGHAZADEH, GHOLAM REZA

Gholam Reza Aghazadeh has been the vice president of the Atomic Energy Organization in Iran since 1997 and is now president of the organization, which is responsible for all nuclear energy operations in the country. He has held various top positions in the post-revolution Iranian government, including Minister of Petroleum.

HOUTHI REBELLION

YEMEN

HOUTHI, ABDUL-MALIK

Houthi is the leading figure in an insurgency in Sadah province in northern Yemen which has been continuing from 2004 to the present day. The uprising has been called the Houthi Rebellion due to his leadership. The Zaidi community comprises around half of the population of Yemen, concentrated in the north. In traditional Zaidi religious belief if there is no clear leader for the Zaidi community a Caliph can emerge through armed struggle. Yemen was formerly under the control of a Zaidi Caliph; the Zaidi Caliphate ended in 1962. His brothers Yahia Badreddin and Abdul-Karim are also leaders in the insurgency.

GAZA SIEGE

PALESTINE

HANIYAH, ISMAIL

Haniyah is a senior political leader of Hamas and one of two disputed prime ministers of the Palestinian National Authority, the matter being under political and legal dispute. President Mahmoud Abbas dismissed Haniyah from office on 14 June 2007 at the height of the Fatah-Hamas conflict, but Haniyah did not acknowledge the decree and continues to exercise prime ministerial authority in the Gaza Strip. Haniyah was a key figure in Palestinian leadership during the Gaza siege.

POVERTY

BANGLADESH

YUNUS, DR MUHAMMAD

Muhammad Yunus is a Bangladeshi banker and economist, as well as the founder of Grameen Bank, and is known for his pioneering efforts in microcredit. He is a founding member of Global Elders, a group of global leaders dedicated to solving global problems, and serves on the board of directors of the United Nations Foundation, a public charity. Yunus was awarded the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts to create economic and social development. His banking is not strictly *sharia* compliant since it is based around taking interest, but some commentators have called it *sharia*-based because of the pro-poor nature of the bank's work. He is currently seeking an endowment to make a *sharia* compliant micro-credit institution.

HIJAB RIGHTS

BELGIUM

OZDEMIR, MAHINUR

Ozdemir is a young politician and Europe's first hijab-wearing minister of parliament. She was sworn in to parliament, while wearing a headscarf, in Belgium. The event garnered mass interest in Turkey, where Merve Kavakçi was denied the right to swear her oath of office because of her hijab. Ozdemir is of Turkish origin. She is a member of the Francophone Christian Democrat party.

YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

QATAR

YOUNIS, AHMED

Younis is the young former national director of Muslim Public Affairs Council in the United States (MPAC). His current job is to create strategic partnerships at Silatech, an organization that recently started to push for greater youth employment in the Middle East and North Africa. These regions in particular have some of the world's highest youth unemployment rates.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

SOUTH AFRICA

PATEL, EBRAHIM

Patel is currently one of South Africa's most important figures. He is the minister for economic development, and former spokesperson for COSATU, the umbrella organization for South African Trade Unions. His experience and position are critical at present because of the huge unemployment rates in South Africa.

BARACK OBAMA ADMINISTRATION

UNITED STATES

PANDITH, FARAH

Pandith was the senior adviser on Muslim engagement in the European and Eurasian region at the State Department. This position was created for the first time in US history. Prior to the State Department, she served on the National Security Council at the White House where she worked on Muslim engagement and combating extremism. She worked at the US Agency for International Development in the early 1990s and again in 2003. She also served in Kabul, Afghanistan in 2004. Pandith immigrated to the United States with her parents from Srinagar, India. She has said that she sees her personal experience as an illustration of how Muslim immigrants to the US can successfully integrate into American society.

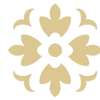
UIGHUR-CHINESE RELATIONS

CHINA

KADEER, REBIYA

Kadeer is the de facto leader of the movement for social justice for the 8 million strong Uighur ethnic-population of China. She was formerly a successful businesswoman but was imprisoned in 2000 for leaking state secrets and now lives in exile in the United States. She is well known for her work in Europe and North America publicizing the plight of the Uighur ethnic group, and is partially responsible for raising the issue's status both in China and abroad. The Chinese government sees Kadeer as an agitator.

GLOSSARY



Al Fatiha: Meaning 'the opening', this is the title for the first chapter of the Holy Qur'an which is recited as a fundamental part of Muslims' daily prayers.

Allah: The Arabic Name for God.

Aqida: Creed; this refers to the theological and doctrinal beliefs of Muslims.

Ash'ari: The school of Sunni Orthodoxy named after the followers of the 9th century scholar Abu al Hasan al Ash'ari (874-936 CE).

Azaan/Adhan: The call to prayer.

Bid'a: Literally 'innovation'; this refers to the act of creating superfluous, or non-prescribed traditions in the practice of Islam. It is used in common speech as a denunciation toward those not acting in accordance with the prescriptions of Islam. The prescriptions of Islam are however open to scholarly interpretation due to perceived ambiguities in the Qur'an, or to scientific or technological innovations which present new questions to scholars.

Caliph: The head of the entire community of Muslims, either current or in the past. Is also used by certain sects to refer to their own leader.

Chador: A loose cloth traditionally worn by Muslim women which usually covers the body from head to foot.

Da'i/ Da'ee: Missionary.

Da'wa: Islamic missionary work; literally 'making an invitation' to the religion.

Emir/Ameer: A title accorded to a leader, prince, or commander-in-chief.

Fatwa : Islamic legal ruling, or legal pronouncement. It is not synonymous with a death sentence as is sometimes thought in the West.

Fiqh: Islamic jurisprudence (the philosophy of law). This is the scholarly pursuit that enables individuals to have an educated understanding of Islamic law.

Hadith: Literally 'sayings'. These are a set of references to the life of the Prophet Muhammad. There are numerous *Hadith*, and the practice of verifying them is an Islamic scholarly practice of its own that has been carried out since the life of the Prophet.

Hafiz (or Hafiza) al Qur'an: A person who has committed the entire Qur'an to memory, and can recite the Qur'an at will. This is important in Islam because the Qur'an was originally revealed as an oral text.

Hajj: The pilgrimage to Mecca. It is mandatory for every Muslim who is able to do it, and can afford to do so. It is one of the five pillars of Islam. The pilgrimage occurs from the 8th to 12th day of Dhu al-Hijjah, the 12th month of the Islamic calendar.

Haram: Sanctuary.

Hijab : Headscarf worn traditionally by Muslim women.

Hijaz: The region along the west coast of the Arabian Peninsula.

Ibadi: The Ibadi school has origins in and is linked to the Kharijites, but the modern day community is distinct from the 7th century Islamic sect. It was founded after the death of Prophet Muhammad and is currently practiced by a majority of Oman's Muslim population. Also found across parts of Africa.

Ihsan : Virtue through constant regard to, and awareness of God.

Ijaza: Certification.

Ijtihad: Independent reasoning.

Imam: (1) In both Sunni and Shi'a Islam this the leader of congregational prayers who may also deliver the Friday prayer (*Jum'a*) sermon; more generally, a person of authority within the community. (2) In Shi'a Islam this exclusively refers to a series of people, descended from the Prophet Muhammad, who by lineage are considered divinely guided spiritual leaders.

Imamate: The position or institution, in Shi'a Islam, that is comprised of a series of divinely guided Imams.

Iman: Faith in God.

Islam: Submission to God's will.

Ka'ba: The large cubic building in the Grand Mosque in Mecca, adorned in gold embroidered black fabric, referred to by Muslims as the 'House of God'. This structure marks the direction in which Muslims pray and is central to the Hajj pilgrimage when it is circumambulated, a practice rooted in pre-Islamic Arabia when it contained idols subsequently removed by the Prophet Muhammad.

Khateeb: One who traditionally delivers a sermon; orator.

Khawerij : A group of Muslims in early Islamic history who went against the larger community and became outsiders. A term used to describe political deviants.

Khums: Literally, 1/5 in Arabic; a religious tax of 1/5 of one's income owed by followers of Usuli Twelver Shi'a to a very senior cleric.

Madhabs: Traditional schools of Islamic legal methodology (e.g. Hanbali, Maliki, Shafi'i, Hanafi, Jafari), that draw on the teachings and followers of four highly regarded scholars.

Madrassa: The Arabic word for 'school'. Can refer to a religious school.

Marja/Marjaiyya: The highest position of authority in the Usuli school of Twelver Shi'i fiqh. Also referred to as *marja taqlid*, meaning literally one who is worthy of being imitated.

Masjid: Arabic word for 'mosque'.

Maturidi: The school of Sunni Orthodoxy named after the followers of the 9th century scholar Muhammad Abu Mansur al Maturidi (853-944 CE).

Mufti: A Muslim legal expert who is empowered to give rulings on religious matters.

Muqri: A reciter of Qur'an.

Murid: Follower of a Sufi guide or order.

Mutabarrik: Supporter or affiliate of a Sufi guide or order.

Mu'tazili: An almost obsolete school of Sunni Islam, popular in the 8th century, that advocates the belief that the Qur'an was created—as opposed to the Orthodox Sunni view that it is eternal and uncreated.

Nasheed: Religious song traditionally performed without musical instruments.

Qibla: The direction in which Muslims make their five daily prayers; the direction of the Ka'ba in Mecca.

Ramadan: Holy month of fasting.

Salafi: A movement of Sunni Muslims that places great emphasis on literal interpretation of the Qur'an and *Hadith*, with skepticism towards the role of human.

Shahadatayn: Testimony of faith.

Sharia: Literally, 'the way to the source', this refers to Islamic law. Islamic law is not, as is widely perceived, a standard set of written rules, but is rather an unwritten text that is interpreted by legal scholars in specific instances, drawing on the Qur'an and other reliable religious sources relevant to the tradition followed.

Sheikh: (1) A position of authority granted to people who are respected in society. (2) A religious official.

Shi'a: The second-largest denomination of Muslims referred to as *Shi'atu 'Ali* or 'the party of 'Ali,' the fourth caliph of Islam and first Imam in Shi'ism.

Sunna: Literally 'the trodden path'; this refers to the ways and practices of the Prophet Muhammad. Reference to these practices can be found in the Qur'an and in the *Hadith*.

Sunni: The largest denomination of Muslims referred to as *Ahl as-Sunnah wa'l-Jama'h* or 'people of the prophetic tradition and community'—with emphasis on emulating the life of the last Prophet, Muhammad.

Tafsir: Interpretation of the Qur'an, either by commentary or exegesis.

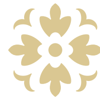
Taqlid: The practice of following rulings without questioning the religious authority. This is a core tenet of the Usuli school of Islamic law.

Velayat-e Faqih: A position of both spiritual and temporal powers in the Republic of Iran. Literally, Guardianship of the Jurists, referring to the fact that while the Mahdi (awaited one) is in occultation, the jurists should have guardianship over the earth.

Waqf: A religious endowment or charitable trust.

Zakat: Alms-giving that amounts to one-fortieth of one's income and savings designated for the poor and destitute.

APPENDIX





MAJORITY MUSLIM COUNTRIES

This map is for illustrative purposes only. Dimensions and exact borders of nations may differ from those shown here. **Statistics: 2008**

Presented by www.ziaraat.com

MUSLIM POPULATIONS

—2008—

The Muslim world spans far and wide with majority Muslim countries nestled around the equator and concentrated in many parts of North Africa, the Middle East, South and South East Asia. An estimated 22% of the world's population is Muslim—spanning approximately 50 countries as a majority and speaking around 60 different first languages.

Region	Country	Population	Islam	
			%	Total
Central Asia	Afghanistan	28,226,000	97.890	27,630,431
Eastern Europe and Eurasia	Albania	3,208,000	38.790	1,244,383
Middle East and North Africa	Algeria	34,373,000	96.680	33,231,816
South Pacific	American Samoa	68,000	0.000	0
Western Europe	Andorra	75,000	0.630	473
East and Southern Africa	Angola	17,499,000	0.000	0
North America and Caribbean	Anguilla	13,000	0.550	72
North America and Caribbean	Antigua and Barbuda	86,000	0.400	344
Central and South America	Argentina	39,934,000	1.950	778,713
Central Asia	Armenia	2,996,000	1.200	35,952
North America and Caribbean	Aruba	104,000	0.280	291
South Pacific	Australia	20,951,000	1.330	278,648
Western Europe	Austria	8,391,000	2.230	187,119
Central Asia	Azerbaijan	8,534,000	83.670	7,140,398
North America and Caribbean	Bahamas	335,000	0.000	0
Middle East and North Africa	Bahrain	766,000	82.370	630,954
South Asia	Bangladesh	161,318,000	85.600	138,088,208
North America and Caribbean	Barbados	295,000	0.750	2,213
Eastern Europe and Eurasia	Belarus	9,635,000	0.100	9,635
Western Europe	Belgium	10,480,000	3.600	377,280
Central and South America	Belize	294,000	0.580	1,705
West and Central Africa	Benin	9,309,000	20.030	1,864,593
North America and Caribbean	Bermuda	65,000	0.000	0
South Asia	Bhutan	667,000	4.000	26,680
Central and South America	Bolivia	9,694,000	0.020	1,939
Eastern Europe and Eurasia	Bosnia-Herzegovina	3,940,000	60.060	2,366,364
East and Southern Africa	Botswana	1,906,000	0.200	3,812
Central and South America	Brazil	194,228,000	0.100	194,228

Region	Country	Population	Islam	
			%	Total
South Asia	British Indian Ocean Territory	2,000	0.200	4
North America and Caribbean	British Virgin Islands	23,000	0.400	92
Southeast Asia	Brunei	398,000	64.370	256,193
Eastern Europe and Eurasia	Bulgaria	7,584,000	11.870	900,221
West and Central Africa	Burkina Faso	15,213,000	50.000	7,606,500
East and Southern Africa	Burundi	8,856,000	3.000	265,680
Southeast Asia	Cambodia	14,697,000	3.900	573,183
West and Central Africa	Cameroon	18,920,000	25.000	4,730,000
North America and Caribbean	Canada	33,170,000	1.600	530,720
West and Central Africa	Cape Verde	542,000	2.770	15,013
North America and Caribbean	Cayman Islands	48,000	0.190	91
West and Central Africa	Central African Republic	4,424,000	15.600	690,144
West and Central Africa	Chad	11,088,000	55.000	6,098,400
Central and South America	Chile	16,803,000	0.030	5,041
Northeast Asia	China	1,336,311,000	2.000	26,726,220
Northeast Asia	China, Hong Kong	7,279,000	1.500	109,185
Northeast Asia	China, Macao	484,000	0.000	0
South Pacific	Christmas Island	1,560	27.000	421
South Pacific	Cocos (Keeling) Islands	660	51.300	339
Central and South America	Colombia	46,741,000	0.110	51,415
East and Southern Africa	Comoros	860,000	98.070	843,402
West and Central Africa	Congo, Democratic Republic Of	64,704,000	1.100	711,744
West and Central Africa	Congo, The Republic Of	3,847,000	1.300	50,011
South Pacific	Cook Islands	13,000	0.000	0
Central and South America	Costa Rica	4,534,000	0.000	0
West and Central Africa	Cote d'Ivoire	19,624,000	38.600	7,574,864
Eastern Europe and Eurasia	Croatia	4,550,000	3.000	136,500
North America and Caribbean	Cuba	11,265,000	0.080	9,012
Western Europe	Cyprus	864,000	23.000	198,720
Eastern Europe and Eurasia	Czech Republic	10,183,000	0.200	20,366
Western Europe	Denmark	5,453,000	3.020	164,681
East and Southern Africa	Djibouti	848,000	93.900	796,272
North America and Caribbean	Dominica	67,000	0.200	134

Region	Country	Population	Islam	
			%	Total
North America and Caribbean	Dominican Republic	9,904,000	0.020	1,981
Southeast Asia	East Timor	1,193,000	2.100	25,053
Central and South America	Ecuador	13,481,000	0.020	2,696
Middle East and North Africa	Egypt	76,840,000	86.520	66,481,968
Central and South America	El Salvador	6,953,000	0.000	0
West and Central Africa	Equatorial Guinea	520,000	0.600	3,120
East and Southern Africa	Eritrea	5,006,000	50.000	2,503,000
Eastern Europe and Eurasia	Estonia	1,331,000	0.700	9,317
East and Southern Africa	Ethiopia	85,219,000	31.000	26,417,890
Central and South America	Falkland Islands	3,000	0.000	0
Western Europe	Faroe Islands	49,000	0.000	0
South Pacific	Fiji	844,000	7.000	59,080
Western Europe	Finland	5,293,000	0.180	9,527
Western Europe	France	61,946,000	10.000	6,194,600
Central and South America	French Guiana	207,000	1.900	3,933
South Pacific	French Polynesia	266,000	0.000	0
West and Central Africa	Gabon	1,350,000	6.500	87,750
West and Central Africa	Gambia	1,754,000	88.800	1,557,552
Eastern Europe and Eurasia	Georgia	4,361,000	20.000	872,200
Western Europe	Germany	82,534,000	3.700	3,053,758
West and Central Africa	Ghana	23,947,000	21.000	5,028,870
Western Europe	Gibraltar	29,000	8.500	2,465
Eastern Europe and Eurasia	Greece	11,172,000	3.300	368,676
North America and Caribbean	Greenland	58,000	0.000	0
North America and Caribbean	Grenada	106,000	0.300	318
North America and Caribbean	Guadeloupe	448,000	0.400	1,792
South Pacific	Guam	176,000	0.000	0
Central and South America	Guatemala	13,686,000	0.000	0
West and Central Africa	Guinea	9,572,000	85.410	8,175,445
West and Central Africa	Guinea-Bissau	1,746,000	43.000	750,780
Central and South America	Honduras	7,246,000	0.160	11,594
Eastern Europe and Eurasia	Hungary	10,000,000	0.100	10,000
Western Europe	Iceland	303,000	0.040	121
South Asia	India	1,186,186,000	12.500	148,273,250
Southeast Asia	Indonesia	234,342,000	80.300	188,176,626
Central Asia	Iran	72,212,000	99.020	71,504,322
Middle East and North Africa	Iraq	29,492,000	96.850	28,563,002
Western Europe	Ireland	4,380,000	0.010	438

Region	Country	Population	Islam	
			%	Total
Western Europe	Isle of Man	79,000	0.000	0
Middle East and North Africa	Israel	7,045,000	14.600	1,028,570
Western Europe	Italy	58,946,000	2.400	1,414,704
North America and Caribbean	Jamaica	2,728,000	0.200	5,456
Northeast Asia	Japan	127,938,000	0.120	153,526
Middle East and North Africa	Jordan	6,200,000	96.190	5,964,000
Central Asia	Kazakhstan	15,532,000	60.500	9,396,860
East and Southern Africa	Kenya	38,550,000	8.000	3,084,000
South Pacific	Kiribati (Gilbert)	97,000	0.000	0
Northeast Asia	Korea, North	23,867,000	0.000	0
Northeast Asia	Korea, South	48,388,000	0.070	33,872
Eastern Europe and Eurasia	Kosovo	2,126,700	85.390	1,815,989
Middle East and North Africa	Kuwait	2,919,000	87.430	2,552,082
Central Asia	Kyrgyzstan	5,376,000	78.080	4,197,581
Southeast Asia	Laos	5,963,000	1.100	65,593
Eastern Europe and Eurasia	Latvia	2,265,000	0.380	8,607
Middle East and North Africa	Lebanon	4,142,000	59.760	2,475,259
East and Southern Africa	Lesotho	2,020,000	0.010	202
West and Central Africa	Liberia	3,942,000	13.000	512,460
Middle East and North Africa	Libya	6,283,000	96.960	6,091,997
Western Europe	Liechtenstein	36,000	3.430	1,235
Eastern Europe and Eurasia	Lithuania	3,371,000	0.140	4,719
Western Europe	Luxembourg	472,000	1.100	5,192
Eastern Europe and Eurasia	Macedonia	2,040,000	25.000	510,000
East and Southern Africa	Madagascar	20,215,000	6.000	1,212,900
East and Southern Africa	Malawi	14,288,000	17.000	2,428,960
Southeast Asia	Malaysia	27,027,000	58.000	15,675,660
South Asia	Maldives	311,000	99.410	309,165
West and Central Africa	Mali	12,716,000	87.000	11,062,920
Western Europe	Malta	408,000	1.100	4,488
South Pacific	Marshall Islands	61,000	0.000	0
North America and Caribbean	Martinique	400,000	0.500	2,000
West and Central Africa	Mauritania	3,204,000	99.840	3,198,874
East and Southern Africa	Mauritius	1,272,000	16.300	207,336
East and Southern Africa	Mayotte	123,416	96.500	119,096
North America and Caribbean	Mexico	107,801,000	0.030	32,340
South Pacific	Micronesia, Federated States	112,000	0.000	0
Eastern Europe and Eurasia	Moldova	3,760,000	0.200	7,520

Region	Country	Population	Islam	
			%	Total
Western Europe	Monaco	33,000	0.500	165
Northeast Asia	Mongolia	2,654,000	4.000	106,160
Eastern Europe and Eurasia	Montenegro	598,000	16.200	96,876
North America and Caribbean	Montserrat	6,000	0.000	0
Middle East and North Africa	Morocco	31,606,000	99.850	31,558,591
East and Southern Africa	Mozambique	21,813,000	18.100	3,948,153
Southeast Asia	Myanmar (Burma)	49,221,000	3.800	1,870,398
East and Southern Africa	Namibia	2,102,000	0.000	0
South Pacific	Nauru	10,000	0.000	0
South Asia	Nepal	28,757,000	5.000	1,437,850
Western Europe	Netherlands	16,450,000	5.400	888,300
North America and Caribbean	Netherlands Antilles	194,000	0.310	601
South Pacific	New Caledonia	245,000	3.500	8,575
South Pacific	New Zealand	4,215,000	0.460	19,389
Central and South America	Nicaragua	5,676,000	0.000	0
West and Central Africa	Niger	14,731,000	97.590	14,375,983
West and Central Africa	Nigeria	149,229,090	50.000	74,615,000
South Pacific	Niue	2,000	0.000	0
South Pacific	Norfolk Island	2,200	0.000	0
South Pacific	Northern Mariana Islands	85,000	0.000	0
Western Europe	Norway	4,727,000	1.040	49,161
Middle East and North Africa	Oman	3,418,000	92.660	3,167,119
Central Asia	Pakistan	166,961,000	96.080	160,416,129
South Pacific	Palau	20,000	0.000	0
Middle East and North Africa	Palestine (West Bank / Gaza)	4,147,000	86.560	3,589,643
Central and South America	Panama	3,399,000	3.500	118,965
South Pacific	Papua New Guinea	6,458,000	0.000	0
Central and South America	Paraguay	6,238,000	0.050	3,119
Central and South America	Peru	28,221,000	0.000	0
Southeast Asia	Philippines	89,651,000	5.000	4,482,550
South Pacific	Pitcairn Islands	50	0.000	0
Eastern Europe and Eurasia	Poland	38,022,000	0.010	3,802
Western Europe	Portugal	10,662,000	0.500	53,310
North America and Caribbean	Puerto Rico	4,012,000	0.130	5,216
Middle East and North Africa	Qatar	856,000	79.430	679,921
East and Southern Africa	Reunion	817,000	2.150	17,566

Region	Country	Population	Islam	
			%	Total
Eastern Europe and Eurasia	Romania	21,344,000	1.000	213,440
Eastern Europe and Eurasia	Russia	141,780,000	10.200	14,461,560
East and Southern Africa	Rwanda	10,009,000	10.500	1,050,945
East and Southern Africa	Saint Helena	7,000	0.000	0
North America and Caribbean	Saint Kitts and Nevis	51,000	0.000	0
North America and Caribbean	Saint Lucia	167,000	0.500	835
North America and Caribbean	Saint Pierre and Miquelon	6,000	0.000	0
South Pacific	Samoa	189,000	0.000	0
Western Europe	San Marino	31,000	0.000	0
West and Central Africa	Sao Tome and Principe	160,000	0.300	480
Middle East and North Africa	Saudi Arabia	25,293,000	92.830	23,479,492
West and Central Africa	Senegal	12,688,000	92.070	11,681,842
Eastern Europe and Eurasia	Serbia	8,032,300	2.500	200,808
East and Southern Africa	Seychelles	87,000	0.210	183
West and Central Africa	Sierra Leone	5,969,000	70.000	4,178,300
Southeast Asia	Singapore	4,490,000	14.900	669,010
Eastern Europe and Eurasia	Slovakia	5,392,000	0.020	1,078
Eastern Europe and Eurasia	Slovenia	2,002,000	1.550	31,031
South Pacific	Solomon Islands	507,000	0.000	0
East and Southern Africa	Somalia	8,956,000	99.950	8,951,522
East and Southern Africa	South Africa	48,832,000	1.450	708,064
Western Europe	Spain	44,593,000	1.200	535,116
South Asia	Sri Lanka	19,394,000	8.000	1,551,520
North America and Caribbean	St Vincent and Grenadines	121,000	1.000	1,210
East and Southern Africa	Sudan	39,445,000	65.000	25,639,250
Central and South America	Suriname	461,000	19.400	89,434
Western Europe	Svalbard	3,980	0.000	0
East and Southern Africa	Swaziland	1,148,000	0.950	10,906
Western Europe	Sweden	9,160,000	3.100	283,960
Western Europe	Switzerland	7,512,000	3.100	232,872
Middle East and North Africa	Syria	20,447,000	90.320	18,467,730
Northeast Asia	Taiwan	23,308,370	0.350	81,579
Central Asia	Tajikistan	6,839,000	89.500	6,120,905
East and Southern Africa	Tanzania	41,464,000	31.800	13,185,552
Southeast Asia	Thailand	64,316,000	5.240	3,370,158
West and Central Africa	Togo	6,762,000	24.000	1,622,880
South Pacific	Tokelau	1,000	0.000	0

Region	Country	Population	Islam	
			%	Total
South Pacific	Tonga	101,000	0.000	0
North America and Caribbean	Trinidad and Tobago	1,338,000	5.700	76,266
Middle East and North Africa	Tunisia	10,440,000	99.660	10,404,504
Central Asia	Turkey	71,500,000	99.640	71,242,600
Central Asia	Turkmenistan	5,031,000	91.840	4,620,470
North America and Caribbean	Turks and Caicos Islands	26,000	0.000	0
South Pacific	Tuvalu	11,000	0.000	0
East and Southern Africa	Uganda	31,903,000	6.000	1,914,180
Eastern Europe and Eurasia	Ukraine	45,859,000	0.450	206,366
Middle East and North Africa	United Arab Emirates	4,503,000	65.450	2,947,214
Western Europe	United Kingdom	61,019,000	2.000	1,220,380
North America and Caribbean	United States	308,798,000	1.490	4,601,090
Central and South America	Uruguay	3,350,000	0.000	0
Central Asia	Uzbekistan	27,769,000	83.500	23,187,115
South Pacific	Vanuatu	232,000	0.000	0
Western Europe	Vatican City	1,000	0.000	0
Central and South America	Venezuela	28,122,000	0.350	98,427
Southeast Asia	Vietnam	88,537,000	0.700	619,759
North America and Caribbean	Virgin Islands (US)	111,000	0.000	0
South Pacific	Wallis and Futuna Islands	15,000	0.000	0
Middle East and North Africa	Western Sahara	497,000	99.900	496,503
Middle East and North Africa	Yemen	23,066,000	99.940	23,052,160
East and Southern Africa	Zambia	12,154,000	1.400	170,156
East and Southern Africa	Zimbabwe	13,481,000	1.000	134,810
TOTAL		6,773,254,236	21.839	1,479,200,275

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NOTE ON FORMAT

- All dates are of the Common Era (CE) unless otherwise stated. The abbreviations CE (Common Era) and AH (Anno Hegirae: years after Hijri) are used for clarity with very old dates.

- Names are presented as individuals refer to themselves, or as they are most frequently used; therefore some professors and doctors do not have the honorifics Prof. and Dr in their title. This is except in the Top 50 where full formal titles are written out completely. Royalty and nobility are accorded their traditionally used honorifics.

- The honorific His Eminence is given to figures of religious importance, such as state-level Muftis or Muftis of high stature, and also to Ayatollahs. His Royal Eminence is used for the Sultan of Sokoto, who has a combination of spiritual and regal honors.

- Other honorifics are presented where they apply, such as Ambassador, Representative, and Lady, among others.

- The title His/Her Excellency is accorded to heads of state, heads of government, and senior diplomats only—as per established usage of these terms. Rarely, individuals wish to avoid such titles, in such cases, we have adhered to the individuals' preference.

- Names are presented surname-first for ease of navigating and indexing, except in cases where first names are more relevant—such as for some royalty.

- Spelling of names is, where possible, as the individuals spell their own name. In other cases we have adhered to the most common usage.

- Specific terms in languages other than English have been italicized, and described. Further explanations for terms are presented in a glossary at the rear of this publication.

- For ease of reading we have adhered to the more widespread and straightforward transliterations of Arabic words into English, such as: Sheikh, Sharia, Hadith, and Ayatollah.



The Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Center
for Muslim-Christian Understanding
Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service
Georgetown University



المركز الملكي للبحوث والدراسات الإسلامية (مبــأ)
THE ROYAL ISLAMIC STRATEGIC STUDIES CENTRE

ISBN: 978-9957-428-37-2

Price: 20 US$